Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 76 | WEDNESDAY MARCH 31, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you practice recycling at home?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Murder Plot
Nine members of a militia group are charged with plotting to kill a police officer.

NATION...Page 15

Death Toll
The death toll in a double suicide bombing of a Moscow subway rises to 39.

WORLD...Page 16

Rumors Confirmed
Ricky Martin is no longer denying the rumors: He's gay.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Flame Tree Arts Festival rescheduled to Apr. 23-25. **PAGE 6**
Drafts rules on fishing at NMI marine monument out. **PAGE 8**

Sharp drop in new biz applications

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of new businesses setting up shop in the Commonwealth continues to plummet.

Business Licensing Officer Pam Halstead estimates a little over 30 percent drop in the average number of new business license applications issued each month compared to last year's.

"It's down in some cases by as much as 50 percent," she added, referring to month-by-month comparisons.

Renewal of business licenses have been on the decline annually since 2005, but the best way to monitor the conditions of the business

See NEW on Page 4

Staff turnover at Commerce delays economic indicators, CPI reports

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Staff turnover at the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division has resulted in the long delay in the release of the 2009 third and fourth quarter economic indicators reports and consumer price index reports.

Former CSD director John Blanco, among others, stepped down and moved to the 2010 CNMI Census office as assistant manager for field operations. Others who used to help prepare the economic reports also left the division.

However, with the March 1, 2010 hiring of Ivan A. Blanco as division director, the 2009 third and fourth quarter CPI reports may be released by middle of April 2010, while the economic indicator reports for the same quarters may be released by middle of May 2010.

The division said it may also release the 2010 first quarter CPI report by middle of May.

"We are working closely with our data providers to ensure that these reports are brought up to date and to make certain that future publications are produced

See STAFF on Page 4

PSS to incur $130K if classes open in August

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will incur $130,000 in additional expenses this fiscal year if the opening of classes is pushed forward to Aug. 13, 2010, as it would create "overlaps" in the contracts of public

See PSS on Page 4

CUC wrestles with tight deadlines, sewer leak

Emergency status is extended anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which is concerned not only about "tight deadlines" for stipulated order projects funded by a $4.05 million grant from the U.S. Department of Interior in February but also CUC's "lengthy and complex" procurement process.

CUC, at the same time, has been investigating the cause of a leak on a sewer line running down As Terlaje and is flowing intermittently on the swale alongside the main road.

The agency hopes the leak can be repaired at a minimal

See CUC on Page 4

AT THE ZOO HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

"Ozzy," Saipan Zoo's leopard, yawns as he waits to be fed yesterday afternoon in As Mahetog. Saipan Zoo, which offers discounts to local visitors and educational tours, says it is now waiting for the arrival of a new attraction—a black leopard named "Sadie"—from Guam.

RELOAD TODAY!
Prepaid Cards for your Prepaid Phone.
All calls from any carrier!
20¢ OUTGOING
10¢ INCOMING
PER MINUTE ANYTIME!
GSM / WCDMA WIRELESSCARD
GO! PREPAID
TWENTY $20 DOLLARS
FIVE $5 DOLLARS
TEN $10 DOLLARS
docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
TEXTING RATES
4¢ CNMI & Guam
6¢ Philippines
10¢ International & U.S. Mainland
FREE outgoing Long Distance to Canada, Guam, Hawaii, China, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, Alaska & Korea (only airtime charges apply).
GSM WCDMA PREPAID
docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Local

CUC customers' grace period extension from 14 to 21 days gets Senate approval

Senators also approve Tinian public land designation for homesteading

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed a bill that extends by seven days the 14-day grace period for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. residential customers to pay their utility bills. The bill also prohibits CUC from disconnecting utility services on a Friday and/or on the last workday of the week.

If Senate Bill 17-23, SD1 becomes law, the grace period will be increased to 21 days after the billing due date to pay utility services.

"The corporation shall not disconnect the utility services of residential customers during the 21-day grace period," Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said in her bill.

Should the House of Representatives pass the bill today, Senate Bill 17-23, SD1 will be on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk shortly.

Taimanao said unforeseen circumstances with the postal services result in the delay in residential customers' receipt of their monthly billing statements from CUC.

"As such, the residential customers have less time to collect the funds to pay their bills when they finally receive their billing statement," said Taimanao, adding that this is especially true for residential customers on Rota and Tinian.

She said Rota and Tinian customers "often receive their billing statements after the disconnection notice has been placed in the mail."

Taimanao

Taimanao added that residential customers need more time to make payments once they receive their billings because of the economic recession.

Tinian land for homesteading

Besides S.B. 17-23, SD1, the Senate also passed Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) Senate Bill 17-22, which designates at least 50 percent of "available" public land on Tinian for homesteading purposes.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased to the U.S. Department of Defense, severely hindering homestead program on the island.

The bill requires the Department of Public Lands to identify and make an inventory of all public lands on Tinian that are vacant, undeveloped and unfettered, excluding those lands designated as public right-of-ways, accesses, roadways and easements.

The bill gives DPL until Dec. 31, 2011 to complete the inventory.

3-day requirement

The Senate also passed House Bill 17-8, removing the three legislative days requirement for certain local bills. The bill now heads to the governor for action.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), removes the three legislative days requirements for appropriations of gambling amusement machine and revenue taxes, and revenue taxes and local poker and pachinko revenues.

Santos said the current requirement can delay critical appropriations of local revenues, which are entirely locally generated and used for medical referrals and other important purposes.

It's how the CNMI knows what it needs.
Help the CNMI get our fair share.
IT'S IN OUR HANDS
Census 2010
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Rebuenog concedes defeat; Aldan to take office next week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Covenant Party's Ramona Rebuenog conceded defeat to Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias Aldan. The latter won the fiercely contested election by 20 votes during Saturday's special poll.

Rebuenog personally expressed her cooperation with the independent candidate during a short conversation with Aldan on Monday at the Northern Islands Mayor's Office on Capital Hill.

Aldan and his committee chair, Henry Litulumar, confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the defeated mayoralty candidate accommodated the new mayor when they visited the office Monday.

The conversation, which lasted about 30 minutes Monday morning, centered on how the two individuals could unite and help the people of the Northern Islands.

In Saturday's special election, Rebuenog got 50 votes against Aldan's 70.

Mayor-elect Aldan said yesterday that Rebuenog is very much welcome to help his administration achieve progress for the Northern Islands and its people.

Both agreed to set aside politics for the islands' progress, according to the committee chairman.

Litulumar told *Saipan Tribune* that Rebuenog even informed the new mayor that the only reason she was in the office last Monday was to remove her personal belongings.

The Northern Islands Mayor's Office now occupies the building vacated by the Commonwealth Election Commission on Capital Hill. The Election Commission is now holding offices in Sususe.

It was Rebuenog who asked the Legislature for the mayor's office to be transferred from its previous location in Garapan village, which is now a youth center.

Litulumar said Rebuenog informed them that keys to the new building will first be turned over to House Speaker Froilan Tenorio, who approved her request to use the building.

Aldan said a similar request to use the newly renovated building will soon be sent to the House Speaker's office.

According to press secretary Angel Demapan, it is the general understanding that upon certification of the election results, Aldan will automatically assume his post.

"By virtue of his election, the mayor-elect should now communicate his wishes to the administration for matters pertaining to his swearing-in," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Litulumar said the new mayor intends to start working on April 9, soon after the tentative schedule for his swearing in.

The new mayor, during his victory party Saturday night, said enriching the livestock and other resources of Northern Islands would be among the priorities of his administration to pave the way for his people's to return to the islands.

Public hearing today on Mafnas' appointment as Corrections chief

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations will hold a public hearing today on the appointment of Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas as commissioner of the Department of Corrections.

Based on the comments received during the public hearing, as well as the written testimony received, the committee will recommend to the full Senate the confirmation or rejection of Mafnas's appointment. The next Senate session will be on April 8.

Mafnas served as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's senior policy adviser since Fitial was first elected into office. Mafnas, who has a background in criminal justice, also served as acting Corrections commissioner and acting Department of Public Safety commissioner.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, said yesterday that Mafnas submitted the required documents, including resume, police clearance, and drug test results.

Mafnas

"This is only a public hearing, and not a confirmation hearing. We invite members of the public to come to the hearing and provide testimony," he said.

Today's public hearing will be at 1pm in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

The committee asked representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Governor, acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack, staff and management at the Department of Corrections, and private citizens to be present during the public hearing wherein they may testify during the public hearing. Written testimony is also encouraged.

Fitial appointed Mafnas as Corrections commissioner, replacing Dolores M. Aldan, who was appointed to a new position under the Office of the Governor, which is that of special assistant for political affairs.

Mafnas will be serving in an acting capacity until his appointment is confirmed by the Senate.

Tax Assistance Services
For individuals and business at
LP Accounting Services
2nd flr. Marianas Business Plaza
(formerly Nauru Bldg.)
Tel. no. 234-3800 or 285-3900
Please look for Loida or BJ
Open from 8am to 6pm -
Monday to Saturday
Our friendly staffs are ready to serve you.

I just got a great pair of glasses for just $77.00! at Marianas Eye Institute

Just $77.00 for a complete pair of glasses:
- Lens & Frames included
- One-year warranty
- Selected Brands
- Lightweight lenses
- $127.00 for Progressive "no-line" bifocals

Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

MICROL TRUE VALUE
Smooth and Capable!

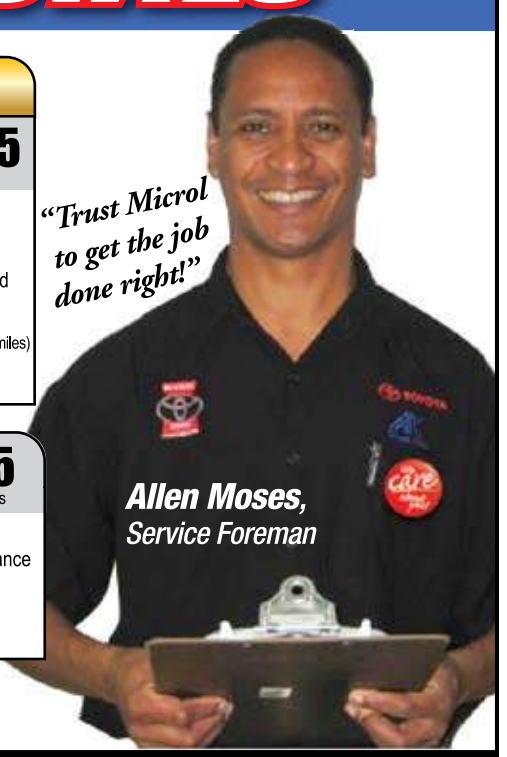
2010 Toyota HIGHLANDER
4 cylinder engine | Comfortable seating for 7 Passengers | Fuel efficient | Cruise Control | Remote keyless entry
Driver and front passenger Advanced Airbag System | Hill Start Assist Control (HAC)

SERVICE SPECIALS
Microl Oil Change Service
Silver Package*
$29.95 | $39.95 V8's
- Change engine oil
- Change engine oil filter
- Lube Chasis
- Perform Multi-point Inspection

Gold Package*
$59.95 | $69.95 V8's
- Change engine oil
- Change engine oil filter
- Adjust Tire Pressure
- Check all fluid condition
- Install MOC Engine Treatment
- Install MOC Washer Solvent
- Lube chasis
- Check condition of engine coolant
- VIP Membership Card
- Complimentary roadside assistance (Good for 4 months/5,000 miles)
- Perform Multi-point Inspection

Platinum Package* $143.25 | $150.75 V8's
- Perform Engine Oil Flush
- Change engine oil
- Change engine oil filter
- Check and top all fluid levels
- Lube chasis
- Check condition of coolant engine
- Install MOC Engine Treatment
- Install MOC Washer Solvent
- Check Check/adjust tires for proper pressure
- VIP Membership Card
- Complimentary roadside assistance (Good for 4 months/5,000 miles)
- Perform Multi-point Inspection

*Prices may vary with make & model. Maintenance is less costly than repairs.
Synthetic upgrade with service additional $35.25 cars and $49.35 V8s.

"Trust Microl to get the job done right!"

Allen Moses, Service Foreman

*Conditions apply. Up to 4 quarts of oil.
MICROL CORPORATION
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
We care about you!
TOYOTA

Budget summit resolution narrowly killed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives narrowly killed a joint resolution that would have asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to convene a budget summit to discuss ideas in addressing the CNMI's budget crisis.

Nine Covenant Party members and independents voted "no" to House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente's resolution, while eight Republicans voted "yes."

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) abstained from voting.

One member was not in the chamber when the voting came, while another one was off island for medical reason during Thursday's session. On the same day, the House also passed an austerity bill that cuts government work hours from 80 to 70 per pay period.

"I still believe that a budget summit is necessary. I hope the Senate and the governor will seriously consider this," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said "solving a $23 million budget problem" is a challenge, referring to the projected budget shortfall.

"Even though some have been resolved when the allocation was reduced, other agencies like Department of Public Health have always been underfunded. The spending trend is still $160 million even though the projected revenue is $137 million," he said.

Benavente, in his three-page resolution, said convening a budget summit is "possibly the most feasible and effective method that will assist the Commonwealth government in shaping strategic priorities and possibly streamlining the budget process to prevent a shutdown in government services and curtailing the effects of the revenue shortfalls."

Benavente said he looks forward to the governor's budget submission, as well as the Legislature's passage of a balanced and timely budget.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he will submit a budget request, amounting to $137 million, by April 1.

DHS wants FSM teen removed from NMI

An agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants a Federated States of Micronesia teenager removed from the CNMI.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement filed the removal case against 19-year-old Marvin Ringlen, who is notorious for stealing laptops.

Ringlen appeared without a lawyer during an initial hearing before the Saipan U.S. Immigration Court.

Ringlen waived the reading of the charges and asked the court for more time to find a lawyer.

The judge ordered him to return to court on May 20, 2010 at 1pm.

ICE has filed 51 removal cases against mostly Chinese nationals. At least three FSM citizens, including Ringlen, are among the respondents.

In December 2009, the Superior Court convicted Ringlen of breaking into a barracks in San Antonio and stealing a laptop computer on Sept. 5, 2009.

Last January, Ringlen and three other persons were arrested for the burglary at the Fun Fun Central Entertainment Center in Finasisu on June 29, 2009. In that case, two laptop computers were stolen.

Last March, police arrested Ringlen for alleged contempt of court after he was found intoxicated, in violation of the court's pre-trial release conditions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-convict gets 12 months for gun possession

The federal court has sentenced an ex-convict to one year and one day in prison for possession of a firearm.

After serving his sentence, Dexter Ulloa Maratita will be placed on three years of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood required Maratita to perform 100 hours of community service and barred him from possessing guns during his probation.

Maratita was also ordered to pay a $100 fee.

The judge said she will recommend to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons that he be made to undergo intensive drug treatment.

Last November, Maratita pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

The plea agreement stated that on March 16, 2009, Maratita sold a Colt .25 semi-automatic pistol to a "cooperating source" working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Maratita has a prior conviction for a theft case in 1997.

On Oct. 20, 2009, Maratita was released upon executing a $20,000 unsecured bond plus many other conditions.

The U.S. Probation early this month moved to revoke the defendant's pre-trial release for violating the condition that barred him from using a controlled substance.

Last March 16, Maratita admitted using methamphetamine or "ice" in two separate occasions and volunteered to go back to jail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEW

From Page 1

environment is to look at the data for new business license applications.

Last January, only 39 new business licenses were issued compared to the 68 issued in January 2009. This translates to a 42.6 percent drop.

In February, only 44 new business licenses were issued compared to 62 in the same month last year—a 29 percent decline.

According to Halstead, these numbers have been falling since 2005, when the Commonwealth recorded the highest surge in new business licenses issued at 1,096.

She noted that there was a significant drop in the quantity of new business applications issued in 2007 and 2008.

In 2007, an annual total of 1,035 new business licenses were issued compared to 657 for all of 2008.

A total of 618 new business licenses were issued altogether last year and this trend is expected to continue throughout 2010.

With the final data for the month of March still being finalized, 34 new business licenses have so far been issued this month since March 18, 2010.

"Many of these new ventures consist of small-scale businesses and consulting establishments," said Halstead.

STAFF

From Page 1

in a timely manner. We ask our data users, policy makers, and the public to bear with us while we work diligently to get these reports published," the division said yesterday.

CSD's last economic indicators report was for the second quarter or April to June of 2009, and the report was released in September 2009. At the time, the business gross revenue or the total sales of registered businesses in the CNMI reached only $395.72 million, a 6-percent or $28.4 million decrease from $423.96 million in the same quarter in 2008.

Government spending of $38.27 million in that quarter exceeded collections of $32.34 million in taxes and fees. At that time, the Fitial administration was projecting a budget shortfall of between $9 million and $15 million, but a preliminary financial report showed a $16.86 million shortfall due to excess government spending for personnel, operations, and utilities.

Public Law 7-35 created the Central Statistics Division under the Department of Commerce. One of its mandates is to produce the economic indicator reports such as the CPI and the economic report. Since the late 1970s, CSD has been producing the CPI schedule. CSD has also been producing the Economic Indicator Report since the early 1990s.

"However, recent staff turnover and preparations for the 2010 Decennial Census has delayed the timely release of these two important reports," it said.

Rota, Tinian CPI

Commerce's Central Statistics Division is also working closely with the Rota and Tinian Department of Commerce to produce the first ever Consumer Price Index on the two islands.

It said the Rota and Tinian CPI report may be released towards the end of the year.

CSD has hired an off island CPI expert from Washington, D.C. to help assist with this project. Work has begun since the end of February this year to put in place the core foundation of having a CPI on these two islands.

Outlet initiations and 1st quarter price collections on the two islands are now in progress. A second set of prices for the 2010 2nd quarter will also be collected before the CPI expert can come back to put a CPI Calculation Program in place.

The quarterly economic reports are available at the Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp/Central_Stats.html.

For more information, contact CSD director Ivan A. Blanco at 664-3023/3045 or e-mail at director.csd@commerce.gov.mp.

CUC

From Page 1

cost of under $5,000, a month after another sewer collapse occurred again in Chalan Kanoa in February as a result of pipe thinning.

The cost to repair the affected section is some $90,000 as CUC must typically replace the 200-foot run between manholes.

Tony Muna, CUC executive director, also said yesterday that the agency was able to beat the March 26 deadline for providing a professionally-developed interim financial plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as required by an additional stipulated order entered by the U.S. District Court on Feb. 24.

Muna's office, however, has yet to furnish a copy of the interim financial plan to the media as of late yesterday afternoon.

There are at least 11 other deadlines required by the additional stipulated order, which was entered a few days after the U.S. Department of Justice told the federal court that CUC has accrued over $4 million in penalties as of mid-February 2010 for non-compliance with the March 2009 stipulated orders despite regular notifications from EPA.

Fitial, in his executive order, said "of concern to CUC are the tight deadlines for Stipulated Order 2 (oil management) projects that are funded by a $4.05 million CIP grant awarded in February 2010."

The funding is to assist CUC in disposing of the used waste oil.

"Failure to meet the deadlines could subject CUC to additional EPA sanctions," Fitial said.

'CUC procurement a relic'

Fitial said coordination of approvals from different agencies to meet the deadlines calls for a responsive procurement system at CUC, including trained technical staff to implement the system.

The governor described CUC's procurement as lengthy and complex.

"A relic of other decades, with their own challenges, it requires extensive experience in specifications and procurement process, and often must be coordinated with the CNMI's separate procurement procedures, adding months to processes that must respond to the immediate challenges outlined in this executive order," Fitial said in his 19-page executive order.

Fitial first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008 and has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

CUC's emergency declaration suspends procurement regulations for CUC to cope with emergency needs, among other things.

The declaration states that a shortage of manpower forced by legislation limiting skilled foreign workers has continued to place CUC operations at risk.

PSS

From Page 1

school teachers.

During last week's meeting of the Fiscal and Personnel Affairs Committee, acting Education Commissioner Charlie Kenty said the tentative class opening schedule will create "overlaps" in the 190-day contracts of teachers.

Committee members are eyeing a possible Aug. 30 opening for school year 2011.

Kenty said that 133 classroom teachers' contracts will be affected by this anticipated "overlap" and will cost PSS $130,000 in additional funds.

For classroom teachers paid under federal programs, PSS will be on the hook for $52,000 in federal funds, he added.

Kenty explained that under the 190-day contract, teachers are paid up to Sept. 7, including summer breaks. If classes begin in August, teachers would receive "double" payment because they will have to be compensated for the early start of classes.

For board member Tanya King, allowing the opening of classes on Aug. 13 will burn out public school teachers. She said educators, who are paid during summer, need to calculate students' grades and rejuvenate themselves for the new school year.

"It doesn't give our teachers breathing time…and will create teachers [that are] burned out," King said during the meeting, adding that pushing the schedule earlier will affect the performance and efficiency of teachers.

PSS has been opening classes in September in the past two years. In 2008, classes were delayed to Sept. 18 after the government found out that some schools were not in compliance with local safe water regulations. Last school year, students returned to classrooms on Sept. 8.

Prior to these two years, PSS always opened classes in August.

FPA committee chair Herman T. Guerrero asked that the matter be deferred to the next committee meetings as more consultation is needed among the leadership and principals.

PSS has over 500 classroom teachers.

PSS to get 7 new school buses next month

The Public School System will receive five new school buses next month—three for Saipan and one each for Tinian and Rota.

The new vehicles were procured using a previous fiscal year's grant from the Federal Transportation Administration.

Costing $95,000 apiece, the 66-seat capacity school buses will be delivered directly to the intended islands.

On top of this, PSS' fiscal and personnel committee learned that the agency has already ordered another five school buses using the same funding source. All new orders will be assigned to Saipan schools.

A 66-seater bus transports about 2,500 to 3,500 students on Saipan on a daily basis.

There are nearly 11,000 students enrolled in 20 public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

PSS aims to provide each school at least one bus for the transportation needs of students. It needs about 25 to 30 buses to establish complete service on Saipan.

For school year 2011, PSS officials said that three mini vans, specifically for special education students, are being proposed to the federal agency.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS has secured continuous funding support from FTA until 2011, which may provide schools 10 to 12 more school bus units. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Ninth Circuit affirms dismissal of 'vexatious litigant' suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the federal court's dismissal of a $61.1 million lawsuit filed by a "vexatious litigant" against two judges and several other persons.

The Ninth Circuit said that judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood properly concluded that the judges were immune from claims arising from their decisions in John Sablan Pangelinan's lawsuits.

The appellate court's decision, issued by three judges, ruled that Tydingco-Gatewood properly concluded that the prosecutor was entitled to absolute immunity.

"Further, the other federal defendants were entitled to immunity to the extent they were sued for executing court orders," the Ninth Circuit judges said.

The appellate court determined that Tydingco-Gatewood properly dismissed the claims against the non-federal defendants because Pangelinan's allegations were insufficient to show that these defendants acted under color of law.

Pangelinan filed the $61.1 million lawsuit *pro se* (without a lawyer) in January 2008 against then U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson and district court designated judge David Wiseman. Pangelinan also named as co-defendants two lawyers, a federal prosecutor, an FBI agent, two federal probation officers, two U.S. Marshals, and seven other people. Pangelinan also sued 13 grand jurors and 12 jurors.

In her order issued in June 2008, Tydingco-Gatewood dismissed the lawsuit and declared Pangelinan a "vexatious litigant." She barred Pangelinan from filing any lawsuit or documents in federal court that is related to the 1997 lawsuit filed against him.

The judge described Pangelinan as the Commonwealth's most active *pro se* litigant, citing the 18 appeals he filed against a 1997 court judgment that found him liable to pay $270,000.

Tydingco-Gatewood also sanctioned Pangelinan by ordering him to pay attorneys' fees and court costs to attorney Robert Torres for including the lawyer's clients in the lawsuit, which the court found frivolous.

Pangelinan appealed Tydingco-Gatewood's decision to the Ninth Circuit.

ENROLL IN NMTI NOW!
Learn a high paying skill!
Northern Marianas Trades Institute is accepting students daily in one of the many courses offered.
No waiting to begin.
Financial assistance available.
Jobs available.

Northern Marianas Trades Institute
Where your future begins!
Call 235-6684 now!

2 convenient locations to better serve you!

HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

Celebrate Easter
April 4th
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
www.picresorts.com
Enjoy a full day of activities including
Egg Decoration at 10 AM,
an Easter Egg Hunt at 3 PM and more!
Must purchase a PIC Waterpark pass to join the fun. $20 per person
Savor a hearty Brunch in The Magellan perfect for families and friends.
*$26 per adult, *$13 per child
*Local resident discount applies.
Magellan Brunch and Waterpark Promo
$30 per adult, $25 per child
Reservations recommended.
Call 237-5172 or send email to fbasst@picsaipan.com
The Magellan

Island Spirit @ the Grand Hotel
Accommodation!
SPECIAL GET AWAY FOR 2 $88
(Overnight stay with Special Sunday Lunch)
FREE play @ Whimsy Arcade Center ● FREE swimming pool pass
● FREE entrance @ Club V
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHIMSY
PROMO ENDS APRIL 30, 2010
AOI RESTAURANT
AOI Restaurant
Lunch, Dinner & Special
Sunday Lunch Buffet
Child 5 to 11 yrs old 50% OFF
Special local discount 20% OFF
Senior citizen discount 30% OFF
CLUB V
WEEKEND LADIES NIGHT
wear Island Spirit attire & be the
HOTTEST female of the night
& WIN $250 worth of prizes
Drink specials all night long.....
FREE ENTRANCE
FREE CHASERS while supplies last
Door opens 9:30pm
Banquet - 10% discount (birthdays,anniversaries,christenings etc,etc)
For reservation please call 234 6601 or 235 6616
Another exciting offer from the grand!
docomo MAGAS Salon TRENCH TECH SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A Tanlholdings Company

Flame Tree Arts Festival rescheduled to Apr. 23-25

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 29th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival has a new schedule. Instead of being held on April 30 to May 2, it will now be held earlier on April 23 to 25, 2020, according to Angel Hocog, the newly appointed executive director of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

He said the dates of the Flame Tree Festival were changed back to its traditional weekend dates and times because of the cancellation of the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit. The festival was originally scheduled to coincide with the summit.

This year's Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held at the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe. In addition to the expected off-island delegates, over 60 vendors for food and arts have already been registered to participate. The registration deadline is on April 15 at 4pm.

A meeting will be held for all participating artists and food vendors on April 8 at 5:30pm to meet with the CCAC and all other participating government agencies at the CCAC's Gallery for Arts and Culture on Capitol Hill next to the post office.

This year's festival theme is "Weaving arts and cultures for social and economic opportunities."

This comes as the council, the festival's organizing body, has a new executive director in the person of Hocog.

He was appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to the post on March 15, 2010. He served three and a half years as the governor's special assistant prior to his re-appointment. Hocog has been involved with the CCAC for over 10 years.

"I am searching for new programs that can be made available to our community. I also would like to bring back some CNMI artists who have left and get them to work with young and upcoming local artists," said Hocog about his plans for the future with the CCAC.

The CCAC promotes various artists in the CNMI to help preserve and display their artwork.

Artists who register with the CCAC's artist directory receive priority for extended services provided by the CCAC such as marketing promotions through the Marianas Visitor Authority, assistance for artists to display their artwork, and providing funding and education to underserved local artists through the National Endowment for the Arts community grant.

For more information, call the CCAC Office at 322-9982/83 or e-mail parkeryobei@gmail.com.

Easter Sunday & Kid's Egg Hunt @ the Grand Hotel

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF

WHIMSY OFFERS

★SPECIAL EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH @ AOI Restaurant $20
Selection of authentic asian cuisine & carving station (roast pig, glazed ham, prime rib)
Free flow of draft beer, champagne, wine, iced tea, juice
ICE CREAM included

★FREE PLAY @ WHIMSY arcade & MEET WHIMSY

★FREE SWIMMING POOL PASS

LOTS OF GAMES & PRIZES TO WIN!!!

Child 5 - 11 yrs old 50% OFF
Special local discount 20% OFF
Senior citizen discount 30% OFF

Please call 234 6601ext. 301-303 or 235 6616
Another exciting offer from the grand!

SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	035E	3/20 Sat	3/18 Thu	3/18 Thu	3/16 Tue	3/13 Sat	3/26 Fri	3/22 Mon	3/21 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/22 Mon	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	3/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	3/27 Sat	3/25 Thu	3/25 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/20 Sat	4/2 Fri	3/29 Mon	3/28 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/29 Mon	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	007E	4/3 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/1 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/27 Sat	4/9 Fri	4/5 Mon	4/4 Sun	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	4/5 Mon	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	4/13 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/10 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/8 Thu	4/6 Tue	4/3 Sat	4/16 Fri	4/12 Mon	4/11 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/12 Mon	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	029E	4/17 Sat	4/15 Thu	4/15 Thu	4/13 Tue	4/10 Sat	4/23 Fri	4/19 Mon	4/18 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/19 Mon	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	4/27 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	008E	4/24 Sat	4/22 Thu	4/22 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/17 Sat	4/30 Fri	4/26 Mon	4/25 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/26 Mon	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	035E	4/3 Sat	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue	4/7 Wed	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/16 Fri	4/17 Sat	4/22 Thu	5/11 Tue	4/25 Sun	4/21 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	4/10 Sat	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/14 Wed	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Fri	4/24 Sat	4/29 Thu	5/18 Tue	5/2 Sun	4/28 Wed
MELL SILOSO	001E	4/17 Sat	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue	4/21 Wed	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/30 Fri	5/1 Sat	5/6 Thu	5/25 Tue	5/9 Sun	5/5 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/24 Sat	4/25 Sun	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/28 Wed	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Fri	5/8 Sat	5/13 Thu	6/1 Tue	5/16 Sun	5/12 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	029E	5/1 Sat	5/2 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue	5/5 Wed	5/7 Fri	5/9 Sun	SKIP	5/14 Fri	5/15 Sat	5/20 Thu	6/8 Tue	5/23 Sun	5/19 Wed
MELL SILOSO	002E	5/8 Sat	5/9 Sun	5/9 Sun	SKIP	5/12 Wed	5/14 Fri	5/16 Sun	SKIP	5/21 Fri	5/22 Sat	5/27 Thu	6/15 Tue	5/30 Sun	5/26 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

April 6, 2010
Northern Marianas College
D-1 Room
5:00pm-7:00pm

April 7, 2010
Multi-Purpose Center
5:00pm-7:00pm

For more information, please e-mail kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647/8.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is here to listen. Come share your thoughts on issues that matter to you and the community. It's about working together for a better and stronger Commonwealth.

TOWNHALL 2010

Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

This advertisement was prepared, published, and distributed at taxpayer expense.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-015

"EDUCATION LEADERS EVALUATION PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"Process for the creation and validation of several standards-based evaluation tools and training/instruction of CNMI PSS administrators in the use of such tools"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 17, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 12, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-015" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation of Bid
PSS IFB 10-020

"Video and Related Equipment for Marianas High School (MHS)"

The Public School System and the, State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Video and Related Equipment for Marianas High School.** The Scope of Work is available beginning March 24, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. This is a re-announcement of IFB 09-040.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-020"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 6,2010, at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Drafts rules on fishing at NMI marine monument out

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has recommended several measures governing fishing activities at the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, including restricting fishing to sustenance, subsistence, or traditional indigenous purposes.

After a weeklong meeting on Saipan and Guam, council members voted to recommend to the Commerce Secretary for approval measures that would ensure the pristine condition of the marine monument and promote sustainable fishing activities.

For the three northernmost islands of the CNMI—Maug, Asuncion, Farallon de Pajaros—the council recommended to:

- authorize fishing conducted for sustenance, subsistence, or traditional indigenous purposes or uses as allowed for under customary exchange of fish;
- require permits and catch reporting for all fishing and to include the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources in the administration and monitoring of the permits and logbooks;
- exempt the CNMI DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife from permit requirements related to scientific research or exploration; and
- include representation from Guam as an observer in the Marianas Trench MNM Advisory Council;

The council also recommended that options for regulating commercial fishing in the volcanic and trench units of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument be considered when the council meets again on June 28 to July 1, 2010 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The council also voted to allow exemptions to non-commercial federal permitting in the Western Pacific region. The council is looking to exempt permit requirements and permit fees for fishers less than 16 years of age. The council will review these and other exemption options when it reconvenes in June. At that time, it will also consider exemptions for other types of federal fishing permits as well as options to facilitate fisheries catch information if any permit and logbook requirements are exempted.

The council defines customary exchange as non-market exchange of marine resources between fishers and community residents for goods and/or services for cultural, social, or religious reasons and may include cost recovery through monetary reimbursements and other means for actual trip expenses (e.g., ice, bait, food, fuel).

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 31, 1999

'Lease term extension needs charter revision'

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is not keen on a proposal to ease land lease restriction as a way of attracting big investors to pour in fresh capital into the slumping economy of the Northern Marianas. A director of accounting firm Burger & Comer has prodded island officials to relax the current lease term for private and public lands in order to lure big business, especially at this time when investments come in trickles. According to David Burger, the 55 years limitation is impeding Chinese and US investors to put up businesses in the Commonwealth.

FAS bill a booster to anti-crime efforts, DPS says

The Department of Public Safety has added its voice to the growing support from government agencies over a proposed legislation restricting the stay of Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI, saying it is a step to curb rising crimes involving their nationals on the island. Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram said the bill addresses important "nondiscriminatory issues" affecting citizens from FSM, Palau and Marshalls and their impact on local resources and infrastructure. The department has seen "an increasingly large percent of reported cases committed" by FAS citizens here, eating up a chunk of its operations and budget, he said in a letter to Rep. Melvin Faisao, sponsor of House Bill 11-294 or the Habitual Residency Act.

March 31, 2000

Court stops deportation of asylum seekers

U.S. District Court Judge Alex R. Munson blocked yesterday deportation from the CNMI of some foreigners seeking asylum here with an order to maintain status quo on the pending litigation, according to the counsel representing the asylum-seekers. Lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen said his clients Juyel Ahmed, Rui Liang and Liao Da Nian as well as those others he represents for their asylum petition cannot be deported pending resolution of their court cases. "Judge Munson expressly ruled that maintenance of the status quo means that Mr. Ahmed may not be deported from the CNMI next week," he said in his letter to acting Attorney General Herb D. Soll.

ADA complaint vs CPA closed

The Civil Rights Division of the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a final ruling on accessibility issues involving the Saipan Air Traffic Control Tower and the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting building finding the Commonwealth Ports Authority in compliance with existing Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. CPA recently undertook a number of adjustments including the construction of an elevator in response to a complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation involving the Saipan seaport office, the ATCT and the ARFF building in 1992. However, the ports authority argued that portions of the airport tower and the fire fighting facility need not meet ADA specifications since the job or an air traffic controller and fire fighters entail a certain degree of physical capabilities.

March 31, 2003

Tinian University gets temporary license

The State Board of Regents has granted Tinian University a one-year provisional license to offer a postsecondary program. The license, however, restricts the new university from offering credit courses until fall this year when it shall have acquired basic equipment and instruction tools, including library materials and hired faculty. The Board approved TU's provisional license during a board meeting Friday afternoon. TU licensure consultant and former Northern Marianas College president Agnes McPhetres said the provisional license would allow TU to offer noncredit classes now such as English.

'NMC administrators are underpaid'

Northern Marianas College administrators are getting lower wages compared to the median pay that their counterparts are getting in other community colleges in the U.S. Latest statistics presented by NMC president Kenneth Wright during Friday's Board of Regents meeting showed that some NMC administrators would need up to 72-percent increase in their salaries to meet the median. The NMC came up with its own computation based on the 2002 statistics released by the Chronicle of Higher Education, which originated from the reports of 1,444 public and private colleges and universities nationwide.

Saipan salvage firm assures compliance with int'l rules on toxic waste disposal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Seattle-based nonprofit organization that monitors global trade in toxic materials will scrutinize the ship-scrapping contract of Worldwide Salvage Saipan to make sure that the firm will not violate federal laws and international regulations on exporting toxic vessels.

A ranking Worldwide Salvage official assured, though, that the company will abide by all laws and international regulations.

David C. Sablan, Worldwide Salvage vice president of administration, also stressed that they welcome any individual, group, or organization that wants to scrutinize the company's plans.

In a report published in InsideBayArea.com, BASEL Action Network's Colby Self said their fleet of lawyers will look into the law once the company gets a contract from Maritime Administration.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved in February the lease agreements for Worldwide Salvage, allowing it to use space and a warehouse at the Saipan seaport for the initial $16 million ship disposal program.

Although the firm has yet to secure a contract with the Maritime Administration for its ship disposal program, Sablan assured yesterday that the company will comply with all the local and federal laws, including international regulations on the disposal of toxic materials.

"[Worldwide Salvage] could and would provide express promise that [it] would neither deliberately cause an accident nor cause any direct or indirect violation to any of the regulatory laws and/or regulations pertaining to the [ship disposal program]. To risk such malicious act is compromising the continuity of the [program] on Saipan or elsewhere. Any willful violations would take away the MARAD contract," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune learned that the MARAD contract will be issued once the company submits all technical compliance requirements and pending Maritime Administration review, which will include a visit to the site.

Worldwide Salvage is reportedly seeking to acquire the Suisun Bay vessels, which were previously being scrapped almost exclusively at yards in Brownsville, Texas. The company wants to tow the ships to Saipan and scrap them here for sale to mainland China. Suisun Bay is in northern California.

The BASEL Action Network is worried that the company may violate federal law restricting the disposal of U.S. ships to domestic scrapping yards, or the international ban on the export of toxic vessels.

The InsideBayArea.com report described some of the older Suisun ships as "in horrible condition" and the voyage of more than 4,000 nautical miles through the Pacific Ocean makes "the likelihood of sinking a definite possibility."

Insurance policy

As part of the company's security plan, Worldwide Salvage is required to secure general liability insurance coverage up to $5 million in the event of an accident, be it toxic waste or heavy equipment incident, by the federal government. CPA requires coverage up to $10 million.

"WWSS cannot commence the ship disposal plan without such insurance policy," said Sablan, adding that they are fulfilling all these requirements.

It will also provide safety training to its personnel before they even commence dismantling and would provide follow-up training.

Sablan added that they will offer wages and salaries better than the current minimum wage at all levels.

Sablan pointed out that the company has performed ship dismantling on Saipan during the mid-'90s under the watchful eyes of the U.S. Coast Guard, Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management and there were no violations cited to or issued against the company.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-017

CUC WATER FACILITIES UPGRADE/REPLACEMENT OF TRANSFORMERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms to supply and deliver the following power distribution materials for CUC's Water facilities upgrade/ replacement of transformers & conductor project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

TRANSFORMERS
TYPE : Transformer, Pole 3-Phase 13.8KV-120/240V TB (Three Bushing) 30 KVA
QUANTITY : (50) Fifty

CONDUCTOR
TYPE : Conductor, CU, Bare, SOL, HD, #4
QUANTITY : 5,000 Feet

Interested parties may be pick-up the bid package & the detailed specification at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-10-017, CUC Water Facilities Upgrade/ Replacement of Transformers, Saipan." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than April, 05, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened. Late submissions will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries should be directed to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email: msablan@cucqov.net and John Ed Onedera, CUC Power Division Engineer at email: johno@cucgov.net

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR Legal Counsel
/s/ ABE UTU MALAE Assistant Executive Director for Operation
/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

ADDENDUM NO. 1

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-10-021
March 31, 2010

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is extending the bid due date for CUC-IFB-10-021, to **April 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** local time.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-021 MITSUI#1 OVERHAUL PARTS "** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 10:00 AM,** local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Friday, April 2, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

ADDENDUM NO. 1

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-10-022
March 31, 2010

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is extending the bid due date for CUC-IFB-10-022, to **April 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.,** local time.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-022 "ROTA 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM,** local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, April 05, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 76

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The pope comes up short

Confronted by a cascade of new sexual abuse revelations, Pope Benedict XVI has issued a pastoral letter expressing "shame and remorse" for "sinful and criminal acts." Addressing Catholics in Ireland, where the hierarchy has been embarrassed by a government commission's report on widespread abuse, Benedict wrote that the bishops' response was "often inadequate" and that the crisis was aggravated by "a misplaced concern for the reputation of the church and the avoidance of scandal." Bishops, he said, should cooperate with "civil authorities in their areas of competence"—apparently a reference to law enforcement.

The pope's condemnation is completely appropriate. But just as important is what he left unsaid—and undone. He failed to say, for instance, that bishops in Ireland and elsewhere who have been found to have covered up abuse should leave their posts. It's bizarre that his letter was presented in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh by Cardinal Sean Brady, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. Brady was present in 1975 when two children who had been abused by a priest were pressured to remain silent, supposedly so they wouldn't influence each other's accounts. Brady did not report the abuse to law enforcement.

Some critics link the pope's aversion to disciplining errant bishops to the fact that during his tenure as archbishop of Munich, the archdiocese allowed a priest who had molested an 11-year-old boy to return to ministry; according to church officials, the move was made without the knowledge of the future pope. More likely, but equally disturbing, is that the pope remains overly influenced by the same concern for the image of the church that he himself, in his pastoral letter, called misplaced. Ironically, attempts to avoid scandalizing the faithful have the opposite effect.

As for the sexual misconduct that so many bishops sought to hide, the pope in his letter shifted blame to psychologists who gave bishops "conflicting expert advice" about dealing with pedophiles. He also echoed the theory, popular with Catholic conservatives, that priestly abuse can be attributed to the liberalization of the church following the Second Vatican Council. Never mind that abuse reaches back into the pre-Vatican II era.

For all the pope's expressions of contrition, the church's credibility will continue to suffer until bishops complicit in the culture of denial and coverup are removed—and not just transferred to a Vatican sinecure like the one bestowed on Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston. Unless more mitered heads roll, the pope's protestations of shame will ring hollow for many Catholics.

© 2010, Los Angeles Times

THE ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT THEY TOTALLY OWN OBAMACARE NOW, AND IF THE PUBLIC DOESN'T LIKE THE RESULTS, IT'LL ALL BE THE DEMOCRATS' FAULT!
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE, SILLY, THEY CONTROL CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE!
ISN'T THAT YOUR FAULT?

World Autism Awareness Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

The phenomenon is worldwide. Autism Awareness Day is observed around the world this Friday, April 2. Tomorrow afternoon at 3pm, the Governor's Office will declare a monthlong Autism Awareness Month for April. With the incidence occurring at a rate of 1 per 100 among children, alarm bells are ringing out loud all over the place.

In a few days, my son will turn 15. He was a "normal" boy for two years until he got the same diagnosis as his older sister: pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise unspecified (PDD:NOS). That is ignoramus-speak for people too proud to acknowledge that they do not know exactly what they have in front of them, or, for bean counters who think there is not enough resource to go around that we might as well lump 1 percent of the population in a grab bag.

Do I sound a little upset about this? Hardly. My son after all has grown up to be efficient in tracking down any address you want around the world on the Internet. Oh, yes, there might be a little raised eyebrow on his simple communication and social skills, his being a teenager who still would not be bothered to put pants on as he struts in the privacy of home, which might be problematic in public places. I remember a SpEd student at Hopwood Junior High who allegedly fondled his privates in public when triggered by a stressful situation.

Are my son and the Hopwood student too dense to learn? They have learned other skills, only that they learned them differently from the standard structured learning of our schools. Here lies one of the obvious lessons that the disability (*different-abled*) community has added to the learning process: that the five sense-perceptions packaged with every human, singularly or in combination, have the resilience and capacity to learn. The key is focusing on a child's ability (direct or compensating) rather than bewailing an impairment or apologizing for a disability.

The story of the blind girl told to the audience at the last CDD-sponsored gathering who was cautioned by her realism-imbued counselor not to hope too high in her academic pursuit of a law degree and went on to get her JD is too common now to be considered rare and exceptional rather than just an ordinary occurrence. Key in "disabled" on YouTube and view the parade of testimonials.

Sadly, our educational bias on brain function favors abstractions, desired critical thinking and analyses at the expense of being in touch with expressive emotions, intuitive knowledge and getting on top of the graciousness of our body genetics. The whole architecture of our schools is geared toward endless seat-times either in antiseptic cubicles where a compliant mind is encouraged, or warehouse cluttered wall-to-wall covered smorgasboard of a teacher's curriculum design and teaching aides (to impress guests), and students reel in the overkill of visual assaults. Teachers drill their students' memory and see what is retained, assess it and the extent of retention is the measure of one's grade.

Anyone who has ever attended a pre-college forensic event walks away with the impression that we are trying to raise more lawyers! We even have a Youth Congress that allows our youth to practice on how to prance like a politician and speak legalese! No kidding.

My ASD daughter is 18 this year, which means autism has been on my screen for over a decade now. The CNMI Autism Commission formed a year ago with a clear mandate was sent out with plenty of good wishes. Never mind that the requisite muscle was not there. At least, by their act the Legislature reflected a level of awareness not generally shown by state bodies, particularly in the Pacific. There was a dissenting voice on the legislation, ironically from the Public School System, based on a narrowed focus rather than the whole gamut of developmental disability.

Barack Obama's take on developmental disability during the campaign tied health and education policies to what we do with autism. OK. Now that health care reform is in place, we can proceed with the business of autism, particularly the influence of chemical toxicity on our metabolism in the last 60 years.

Meanwhile, ASD as a broad canopy has spawned its own universe, including a burgeoning commercial side that one cannot now move in cyberspace without encountering the hawking of a related service or a product. For those who have not bothered so far to get familiar with autism and have access to the Internet, log in to www.autism-society.org, and take their Autism 101 test. Better yet, for families having babies on Saipan, drop in at the CDAC, the Children's Development Assistance Center, right by the Carolinian Utt and Garapan basketball court. Or give them a call; the CDAC folks would just be glad to assist.

The Commission, V-powered by voluntary effort, is not surprisingly behind in their work and may ask for a year's extension to produce their research and recommendations. But if the support we have given the Autism Commission is any indication, reliance on government-initiated effort is misplaced. Urgency and speed will come when parents raise their voices, and then dip deep into their own pocketbooks to identify what is needed, make the necessary proposals, and then make it happen.

A teacher colleague who has written on mercury-laced thimerosal-preserved multi-vaccines is livid at the protection given vaccine-producing pharmaceuticals from legal liability since the reign of George B the elder. That feeling has intensified with the recent Supreme Court decision that denies vaccines as causing autism altogether, never mind that the director of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta acknowledged a direct link two years ago.

Autism awareness is in order. With its epidemic magnitude, it deserves the same attention as curtailing climate warming and preventing World War III.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Customer Service 101 talk: 'Trust me, you're losing sales!'

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

By a show of hands, how many business owners in the audience would like to make more money? Thank you. By a show of hands, how many people have noticed a decrease in sales? Thank you. Now, suppose I could share with you a few simple tips for increasing those sales, how many people would be interested? Thank you.

While there are numerous strategies for advertising and marketing that can increase sales, the purpose of today's lesson is to impress upon you the importance of some basic points of awareness that can have a profound effect on your sales.

So, welcome to the "Customer Service 101" Training Course!

What's Going On

As a business owner, you need to be aware of how your frontline staff is treating your customers, and the message and impression that is being sent every day to the potential buying public.

Because you are not on the frontline every day, interviewing your customers as they leave, you may not realize what is really going on.

Businesses are suffering the effects of phone answerers who are unintelligible, receptionists who are surly or downright unfriendly, wait staff who play "favorites," desk clerks who don't acknowledge visitors respectfully, or at all, and even cashiers who are talking on cell phones while ringing up purchases. Trust me, these things are affecting your sales!

There's always Amazon!

Perhaps it's a malaise that creeps in when one does business in what's essentially a small town in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. However, even on a little island with a "captive" market, people can and do exercise their freedom to choose where and with whom to spend their money. There are always other options. People can order online, those who can may choose to go to Guam, or have relatives ship items from abroad. Or they can simply decide to do without. I know one person who will only buy his gas from an "A" brand vendor" here on island because of how he felt he was treated at a "B" brand station.

"Even if I ran out of gas," he joked, yet serious, "I would still walk past a "B" Station and get my can filled at "A!"

Especially in this economy, we don't have the luxury of ignoring, offending or mistreating the lifeblood of every business—the customer.

The Talk

So, starting tomorrow, I'd like you to call your staff into a weekly meeting to give the following talk, or some variation of it:

"Ladies and gentlemen. We are a business in business together. As a business, we survive through our customers. Our job as a business is to make the customer happy and to keep that customer coming back. Therefore, we need to make our customers feel welcomed, valued, respected and special. So, how do we do that? It's very simple.

"But, before I tell you 'how' we do that, I need to tell you 'why' we do that. You may not always remember this, ladies and gentlemen—it's so obvious that we often overlook it—but there is a direct connection between how *you* treat our customers and *your* happiness. I say 'you' because you are the person the customers see every day. While I'm in the office handling management responsibilities, *you* are the face of my company.

"Remember, our customers don't have to come here. They can go somewhere else. If they go somewhere else, we don't make money. If we don't make money, I have to reduce your hours even more, take a percentage of your tips, and eliminate any bonuses or incentives. Does that make sense? In other words, make the customer happy, and the business survives. When the business survives, *you* survive. Your paycheck, your livelihood, and your job are all directly connected to how you treat our customers.

"But, it goes even further than that! Because this is such a small island, how a customer is treated—especially a visitor to the island—has far-reaching effects in other countries and ultimately affects the entire economy. One unhappy customer with a popular blog, a Facebook page, or a Twitter network with thousands of followers, can affect what people around the world think about our little island. You never know who is watching or reading the people who come through our doors.

"Now, I understand that not all customers behave in ways that make you *want* to be nice to them. But that's just the reality of being in a service company like ours. Every day we meet people of different cultures, languages, backgrounds, upbringings, behaviors and attitudes.

"We also bring our own attitudes to work. It may be that you don't like people from this group, or that, historically, people from this group don't like people from your group, or that this group is always rude, or that people of this group are always loud and don't tip well, or whatever. I understand all of this. We all have those ideas and experiences in some form.

"However, as valid as they might be, I need you to leave your personal biases outside the doors of our business. I need you to do your absolute best to treat everyone exactly like they're your favorite group! Even if they snarl at you! Be gracious and never get into fights or mistreat the customers. (For those of you in the wait staff, if a situation gets really nasty, just call me or the manager to handle it). Remember, this goes both ways, I also don't want you to have to suffer abuse from our customers anymore than I want them to feel unhappy about doing business here. Everybody deserves the best!

"So, starting today, I'm requesting that each of you do a few things: First, the minute you step through these doors, take a deep breath and remember that making *all* of our customers feel special is part of the job requirement. Smile when you greet our customers. Ask them if they need any help. Give them your undivided attention when you interact with them. Say, 'Thank you very much, please come again!' when they complete a purchase (and even if they don't).

"In our next meeting, we'll do some role playing and I'll demonstrate how to greet, speak with, and even how to accept as well as hand the change and a receipt back to a customer, or how to return a credit card to our customers so they don't feel disrespected.

"These are just a few of some simple things that boil down to basic acknowledgement, courtesy and respect that we can give our customers so they don't walk or drive past our doors to spend their money at another business for something we offer right here! With your help, we can create a welcoming experience for our customers that will keep them coming back and telling others about. Is everyone in agreement?"

By show of hands, how many people found this helpful? Are there any questions, suggestions or other topics you'd like addressed? Thank you, and thanks for attending this session of Customer Service 101. Until next time, remember, someone is always watching!

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the books, Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan *(saipanfactorygirl.com)* or Jamaican on Saipan *(jamaicanonsaipan.com), or* Doing Business on Saipan *(saipanliving.com)* may place orders on *those sites, or…yes, Amazon.com!*

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

Exercising humility in Lent

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

The Holy Week presents a perfect opportunity to slip quietly into the intellectual and spiritual corner of our mind. Personally, it brings back fond memories of my stint as an altar boy some 45 years ago. Suffice it to say, I've had my share of the Last Supper, prayers at the Stations of the Cross, procession and wake; and Mass on Easter Sunday. An annual retreat and daily meditation is a healthy exercise in search of personal peace.

Meditating on the powerful prayer "Our Father," is a silent journey in itself, sufficient to open and think through its essence, substance and definition of the life of Christ. We seek to be forgiven "as we forgive those who trespassed against us." This leads to personal humility and harmony. When you are in harmony with yourself, you can look without and be in harmony with others. It begins with the self. Forgiving your fellow man is one very uplifting experience.

I've worked long and hard to be in harmony with the beast in this restless soul. I think I've conquered it and have quietly forgiven those who have violated my peace of mind. Be that as it may, I still hear that human voice somewhere in the back of my mind yelling, "I forgive, but I don't' forget."This boastful inadvertence is okay for as long as I keep it to the three people I know best: Me, Myself and I.

Being Chamorro makes my workload on attaining personal humility and harmony even harder. I mean, talk about people with raw attitude in personal grudges, you know, the get even syndrome so familiar among locals. I've shoved it aside permanently, too. It doesn't help at all for it vexes the soul. Who needs this as we navigate the myriad of issues we meet daily in search of the truth?

The procession to Mt. Tagpochau wasn't a part of the Lent activities in the '60s. It was Bishop Tomas Camacho that started it in recent past. As I bush-cut parched grass around the yard, I thought of braving the blistering sun this coming Friday. I fancy footed collecting an award from Him for courage. But what if I suffered from a fatal heat stroke and had to report to the pearly gates instantly? But then there's also the trophy for stupidity and it would be embarrassing receiving it on Good Friday.

Our elderly were very conservative people and would go the distance to observe most Holy Week activities. This influence was passed down to subsequent generations. The one thing I dread was the eerie silence after 3pm on Holy Friday. The only noise in the village was crackling sound of a muted instrument as the members of the San Luis group announced the death of Christ. In the evening, we head to church for the wake. The next day is all preparation for the celebration of Easter Sunday or His resurrection.

Easter Sunday is widely celebrated in the Marianas Archipelago. It is the most special occasion where the family patriarch and matriarch gather their siblings to prepare local delicacies for lunch or dinner. The occasion itself is a powerful unifying influence for families everywhere throughout the Christian world. It is also the right occasion to renew peace and harmony among feuding siblings. Extending the olive branch is accomplished, as encouraged by our elders, "before sunset."

Christianity, specifically, Catholicism was never a part of the cultural traditions of the indigenous Chamorro. Though difficult this conversion may have been, it is accepted as a religious cultural tradition on the islands. It augurs well with our culture of communal sharing, an influence that strengthened the social fabric of the indigenous people all through the years. As such, our people gather together here or abroad in observance of prominent religious occasions such as Lent/Easter and Christmas. This is even stronger on the other side of the Pacific divide as more island folks gather on these festive occasions to exchange felicitations in places like San Diego, Texas, Oregon, Washington and elsewhere.

With hope and powerful prayers, we shall overcome the bad times for we have tougher minds than the afflictions of the worst of recessions. Hell, if I can't find purposeful success in what I've set out to do, no worries, I will follow what Bernard Shaw commanded: Create One! If perchance I make it, I'll share it with my fellow man. *Felis Pasgua yan* Happy Easter to one and all!

Letter to the Editor

Thank you!

This is a special shoutout to my two lovely and hardworking *bwibwis* at CDI NMC: Ms. Lei Ogumoro and Mrs. Carol Osono. Thank you so much for all the hard work you did during our master's program, cohort 7. Thank you for the times you had to carry the computers and printers to our classroom. Those were heavy! How did you get them from building P to building D or A? Roll them on the ground? LOL. I thank you ladies especially for all the weekends and after hours you had to sacrifice to provide assistance for cohort 7. Your sacrifices are well appreciated. Lots of love and thank you to none other than Mrs. Carol Osono and Ms. Lei Ogumoro. Keep up the good work.

Josie Kaipat
Kagman II, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°

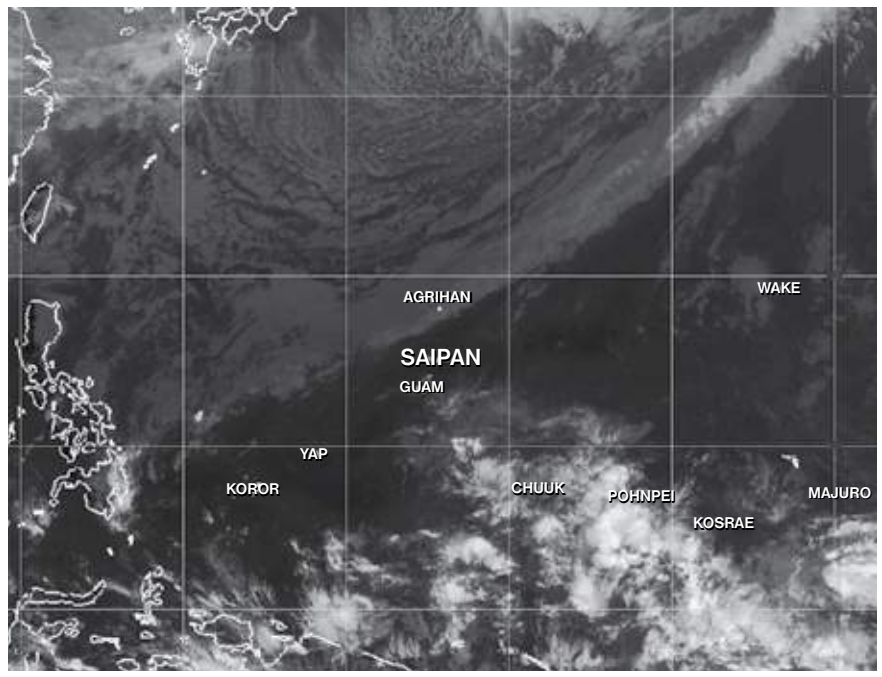
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲68	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼40
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77	▼69
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82	▼71
London	Showers	▲45	▼38
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲66	▼51
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲91	▼81
Melbourne	Sunny	▲76	▼54
Miami	Cloudy	▲75	▼54
New York	Rain	▲51	▼41
Osaka	Cloudy	▲58	▼51
Paris	Showers	▲51	▼37
Pusan	Rain	▲58	▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲65	▼46
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼38
San Francisco	Showers	▲56	▼48
Seoul	Showers	▲50	▼49
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼48
Washington, DC	Rain	▲51	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N158E to the northern CNMI near 18N146E then continues as a shear line to end near 11N130E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers near Chuuk and Pohnpei within an area bounded by 7N147E to 9N155E to 4N163E to EQ156E back to 7N147E farther east. Scattered showers are found south of the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 2N170E to 4N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:38 PM	6:37 AM
Thursday	8:37 PM	7:25 AM
Friday	9:37 PM	8:14 AM
Saturday	10:35 PM	9:06 AM
Sunday	11:29 PM	10:00 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 30, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL640	8:40am	11:25am	1, 3, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL640/646	8:40am	1:55pm	1, 3, 7 via NGO
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z604	2:20am	6:10am	1
0Z604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
0Z606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
0Z9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
0Z606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

0Z604/721	2:20am	11:45pm	1 via ICN
0Z604/721	2:50am	11:45pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z119	4:00am	6:40Am	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL287/641	6:35pm	1:40am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
0Z603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
0Z702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
0Z704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

0Z724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
0Z750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
0Z722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z120	9:55am	2:20am+1	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Cabrera assures El Niño won't impact NMI as much

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service in Guam is reporting that a mature El Niño event is currently occurring in the equatorial Pacific Ocean but its behavior in Micronesia is more typical of a moderate El Niño.

Because of this, despite brief spurts of showers, both Guam and the CNMI still remain in their dry seasons and the El Niño very well may extend the dry season into June and July, according to a Pacific News Center report.

CNMI agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera is optimistic, though, that El Niño's effects on the islands will be minimal.

"Although the weather report is accurate, I still don't see any reason to panic. Since our islands are so small, we don't typically feel El Niño effects to the extent of larger bodies of land. And the weather patterns can still change down the road," he said.

Cabrera said the rainy season is supposed to start during the last week of May. Cabrera also expects to see rain just following this upcoming full moon.

Cabrera

El Niño is a climate pattern that occurs across the tropical Pacific Ocean on average every five years and is associated with floods, droughts and other weather disturbances.

Quoting the National Weather Service, the PNC report states that the CNMI should consider implementing water conservation measures, especially on Saipan.

"The dry conditions increase the chance of fires to break out and blowing winds together with the shortage of water could make such fire fighting even more difficult," the PNC report states. "The NOAA also noted that agriculture in Kagman is already beginning to whither as a result of a lack of rain and that livestock on Tinian could die as a result of reduced water availability and reduced food sources."

The expected dryness is not expected to be as severe as in 1983 or 1998, but the dry conditions could still be severe. In general, daytime temperatures will be warmer and night time temperatures will be cooler according to the NOAA.

One or two additional months with rainfall totals at 2 inches or lower are expected in March through June. One or two months with rainfall totals of 3 inches or below are expected from March through April or May.

Due to the eastward conveyance of oceanic heat, Tuna may move east away fro the Federated States of Micronesia toward the Marshall Islands and Samoa. The US Coral Reef Watch Program indicates that coral bleaching is not expected at this time in Micronesian Islands.

PARENT LEADERSHIP AWARDEES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marites Aquino Castillo, second from right, and Bernadine Marcelo, third from right, show off their plaques of recognation as the 2010 National Parent Leardership Monthly Awardees. Others in photo are teachers and the principal of the Joshua Generation International Academy.

PARENTS' NIGHT SEMINAR NMC

Northern Marianas College officials and parents gather for a photo after the Parents' Night seminar held on Rota at the Rota Junior High School Cafeteria on the evening of March 29, 2010. Some of the topics that were covered during the seminar included NMC's background, accreditation, financial aid options and cost of college. Parents were also given good advice by NMC dean of Student Services and former counselor Leo Pangelinan on how to better cope with their children as they transition out of Rota and into other regions as they pursue a college degree and about the importance of supporting their children's endeavors.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, Frank B. Camacho, who has been nothing but our foundation throughout each day of our lives! He is a great husband, father, grandfather, and most of all a great friend. He will always put a smile on your face even when you are down. Thank you for all that you do for us. You deserve nothing but the best. We are proud to call you Dad and Grandpa. Though we may be miles away, we are grateful for having you as a person in our daily lives. We love you Dad and Grandpa! Love always, Mom, Zette, Jun, Lei, Nana, and Kiko Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEQ Brigade sets islandwide cleanup

With the celebration of the Annual Environmental Awareness Month in April, the Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be deviating from its regular first Saturday of each month cleanup and instead encourages volunteers to join the islandwide cleanup, which is scheduled for April 23, 2010. The time will be announced later.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, ask your company or agency to sign up with the EAM Committee by filling out the forms, selecting a route to clean, and "Pick it Up!"

Volunteers will split into groups and go to selected beach or roadside and go north, south, east or west cleaning for about two hours or when finished.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's islandwide cleanup and "Pick it up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS hosts Parent Literacy Night today

Marianas High School will be hosting its 3rd Parent Literacy Night today, March 31, 2010, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the MHS cafeteria. This event, hosted by the Social Studies Department, will focus on literacy strategies for all academic areas. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

MMAC sets team captains' meeting today

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team captains' meeting today, March 31, at 5:30pm in the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club. Registration and luminary deadlines will be discussed along with any other important information that may come up. Public comments will be included in the agenda. For more information, contact Reina Camacho at 285-7677 or via email at reinacamacho@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman Neighborhood Watch meeting today

The Kagman Komunidat Association is urging all Kagman residents to attend the neighborhood watch meeting to be held at Kagman High School today, March 31, at 6pm. Neighborhood watch is meant to prevent and decrease criminal activity in villages. ***(PR)***

Delegate candidate will appear on Marianas Agupa

Local attorney Joseph Camacho, a candidate for U.S. Delegate, will be a special guest on Marianas Agupa Chamorro Radio Talk Show this Saturday, April 3, 2010, from 9:30am to 10am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be on indigenous rights and opportunities. The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Managaha waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a Green flag.

The division analyzed a total of 11samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Senate committee seeks public comments

The Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare is encouraging all members of the general public to submit written recommendations, concerns, questions and/or comment on:

- S. B. 17-10, SS1: To establish a population-based cancer registry in the Commonwealth Of The Northern Mariana Island; and
- S.B. 17-11: To enact a new chapter 8 of the Division 2 of Title 3 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes (Medical Consent Act of 2010).

Copy of the legislation may be obtained at the CNMI Legislature in Capitol Hill, Saipan, at the Offices of Senator Ralph DLG. Torres, or the Senate Clerk, or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

To submit written recommendations, concerns, questions and/or comment, drop off at the Office of Sen. Ralph Dlg. Torres at the Legislative Building, may be e-mailed to senatorrtorres@gmail.com or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500129, Saipan, MP 96950.

Deadline for submission of comments is April 9, 2010.

For additional information, call (670) 664-8874.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO ALL VALUED GUESTS

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:

Point Break Wave Machine: April 5(Mon) ~ April 25 (Sun), resume operation April 26 (Mon).

*Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen problems.

The Lazy River will remain open during this period; however, the Tube Slide going from the Point Break down into the Lazy River will not be available. All other facilities will be in regular operation.

Thank you very much for your understanding.
PIC Management

National Forensic League Regional Competition

Photos by MONETH DEPOSA

DUO INTERPRETATION. Partners John Edward Elenzano and Ryan Ortizo pose with runner up winners during Saturday's awarding ceremonies.

PROSE. First place winner Oilang Maui, left, is joined by other top winners in the category during the NFL regional competition held March 20, 2010, at the Marianas High School. They included John Edward Elenzano, Hazel Doctor, Doyi Lee, and Crystalline Marie Cristobal.

POETRY. Mount Carmel School's pride Ryan Ortizo emerged top winner in poetry during the rigorous competition Saturday. Others in photo are second placer Chantee Rossette, third placer Janella Revilla, fourth placer Jenica Smithee, and fifth placer Mery Len Denora.

EXPOSITORY. Winners from left are Micheal Sheu, Midori Nishida, Glen Paul Florendo, Jermaine Reina Perez, and Jimaela Anne Ham.

HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION. From left are first place winner Anastacia Schweiger, Doyi Lee, Chan Won Hwang, Terence Ho, and Merey Len Denora.

FOREIGN EXTEMPORANEOUS. Judges hailed Jessica Lee as overall winner. Other winners included Jenny Sakamoto, Seong Jun Hwang, and Sun Koo Kim.

US EXTEMPORANEOUS. Winners from left are Eunice Park, first place; Edu Banaag, second place; Chan Woo Lee, 3rd place; Alex Park, fourth; and Moon Park, fifth place.

IMPROMPTU. From left are overall champion Ryan Ortizo, Chan Woo Lee, Oilang Maui, Jenny Sakamoto, and So Young Hwang.

ORATORY. Top winner Hazel Doctor poses with fellow awardees during Saturday night's ceremony at MHS. With her are runner-up winners Jeremiah Perez, Chantee Rossette, Olivia Leung, and Micaela Demapan.

STORY-TELLING. First place winner John Edward Elenzano poses with runner-ups Jenica Smithee, Jimaela Anne Ham, and Crystalline Marie Cristobal.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION. From left are first place winner Ryan Ortizo, second placer Bianca Blanco, third placer John Edward Elenzano, and Jenica Smithee and Mark Anthony Liban, fourth and fifth placers respectively.

COMMENTARY. Top performers include overall champion Angela Faith Mamaril, second placer Micheal Sheu, third placer Jeremiah Perez, fourth placer Moon Park, and fifth placer Alex Park.

Business

NASA will help probe Toyota acceleration problem

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA and the National Academy of Sciences are joining the government's effort to figure out what caused the sudden acceleration problems that led to Toyota's massive recalls.

NASA scientists with expertise in electronics will help the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study potential electronic ties to unintended acceleration in Toyotas. NASA's knowledge of electronics, computer hardware and software and hazard analysis will ensure a comprehensive review, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Monday.

In a separate study, the National Academy of Sciences will examine unwanted acceleration and electronic vehicle controls in cars from around the auto industry, LaHood said. The National Academy is an independent organization chartered by Congress.

The academy study, expected to take 15 months, will review acceleration problems and recommend how the government can ensure the safety of vehicle electronic control systems.

"We believe their outside expertise, fresh eyes and fresh research perhaps can tell us if electronics have played a role in these accelerations," LaHood said.

Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles worldwide, including 6 million in the United States. Toyota said in a statement it was "confident in our vehicles and in our electronics" and would cooperate with the government review.

"These studies are just the kind of science-based examination we have been calling for. Bringing some sunshine to this subject is bound to separate fact from fiction, which will be good for Toyota, the industry and the motoring public," the company said.

LaHood has told Congress the department will dig deeply into what has caused hundreds of complaints of unwanted acceleration in Toyotas.

LaHood said he has asked the Transportation Department inspector general to review whether NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation has what it needs to identify and address safety defects.

Some lawmakers have criticized NHTSA for failing to investigate Toyota complaints earlier and more thoroughly.

"Carmakers have entered the electronics era, but NHTSA seems stuck in a mechanical mindset," House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said last month. "We need to make sure the federal safety agency has the tools and resources it needs to ensure the safety of the electronic controls and on-board computers that run today's automobiles."

Health premiums could rise 17 pct for young adults

CHICAGO (AP)—Under the health care overhaul, young adults who buy their own insurance will carry a heavier burden of the medical costs of older Americans—a shift expected to raise insurance premiums for young people when the plan takes full effect.

Beginning in 2014, most Americans will be required to buy insurance or pay a tax penalty. That's when premiums for young adults seeking coverage on the individual market would likely climb by 17 percent on average, or roughly $42 a month, according to an analysis of the plan conducted for The Associated Press. The analysis did not factor in tax credits to help offset the increase.

The higher costs will pinch many people in their 20s and early 30s who are struggling to start or advance their careers with the highest unemployment rate in 26 years.

Consider 24-year-old Nils Higdon. The self-employed percussionist and part-time teacher in Chicago pays $140 each month for health insurance. But he's healthy and so far hasn't needed it.

Ka-ching! Shoppers keep registers humming

WASHINGTON (AP)—Confidence is growing that the economic recovery won't fizzle out. Consumers kept cash registers humming last month at a decent pace, pointing to modest and steady economic gains ahead.

The Commerce Department reported Monday that consumers boosted their spending by 0.3 percent in February, marking the fifth straight monthly gain.

Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, called it "an encouraging sign of consumer revival."

The pickup in spending was a tad slower than the 0.4 percent increase registered in January and marked the smallest increase since September. Nonetheless, the spending gain was considered decent, especially given the snowstorms that slammed the East Coast and kept some people away from the malls.

"Households are starting to ease up on their tight grip on their wallets, though it would be nice if they had more money to spend," observed Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Americans' incomes didn't budge.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gov't will sell Citi stock, reap bailout profits

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank bailouts are turning out to be great business for the government. Unfortunately for taxpayers, other federal rescues will almost certainly wind up in the red. The Treasury Department said Monday it will begin selling its stake in Citigroup Inc. at a potential profit of about $7.5 billion—not a bad haul for an 18-month investment. The move is a major step in the government's effort to unravel investments it made in banks under the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program at the height of the financial crisis. Yet a year and a half after Congress passed the big bailout, other parts of it—particularly troubled automakers General Motors and Chrysler and insurer American International Group—show no signs of being profitable.

US judge strikes down patent on cancer genes

NEW YORK (AP)—In a ruling with potentially far-reaching implications for the patenting of human genes, a judge on Monday struck down a company's patents on two genes linked to an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer. The decision by U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet challenging whether anyone can hold patents on human genes was expected to have broad implications for the biotechnology industry and genetics-based medical research. Sweet said he invalidated the patents because DNA's existence in an isolated form does not alter the fundamental quality of DNA as it exists in the body nor the information it encodes. He rejected arguments that it was acceptable to grant patents on DNA sequences as long as they are claimed in the form of "isolated DNA."

Japan's factory output down, jobless rate steady

TOKYO (AP)—Cautious Japanese companies laid off more workers and hit the brakes on production in February, sending factory output down for the first time in a year. Industrial production in the world's second-biggest economy retreated 0.9 percent from January, following 11 consecutive months of gains, the government said Tuesday. The result missed Kyodo News agency's average market forecast of a 0.4 percent decline. A separate report showed Japan's unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in February. But the number of jobless rose 8.4 percent from a year earlier to 3.24 million, with 1.1 million saying they were laid off. The number of people with employment fell 1.3 percent to 61.85 million.

Nation

Christian militia accused of plotting to kill cops

DETROIT (AP)—Nine alleged members of a Christian militia group that was girding for battle with the Antichrist were charged Monday with plotting to kill a police officer and slaughter scores more by bombing the funeral—all in hopes of touching off an uprising against the U.S. government.

AP

This combo of eight photos provided by the U.S. Marshals Service on Monday March 29, 2010 shows from top left, David Brian Stone Sr., 44, of Clayton, Mich,; David Brian Stone Jr. of Adrian, Mich,; Jacob Ward, 33, of Huron, Ohio; Tina Mae Stone and bottom row from left, Michael David Meeks, 40, of Manchester, Mich,; Kristopher T. Sickles, 27, of Sandusky, Ohio; Joshua John Clough, 28, of Blissfield, Mich.; and Thomas William Piatek, 46, of Whiting, Ind.

Seven men and one woman believed to be part of the Michigan-based Hutaree were arrested over the weekend in raids in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, and another was still being sought.

FBI agents moved quickly against Hutaree because its members were planning an attack sometime in April, prosecutors said. Authorities seized guns in the raids but would not say whether they found any explosives.

The arrests have dealt "a severe blow to a dangerous organization that today stands accused of conspiring to levy war against the United States," Attorney General Eric Holder said.

Authorities said the arrests underscored the dangers of homegrown right-wing extremism of the sort seen in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In an indictment unsealed Monday, prosecutors said the group began military-style training in the Michigan woods in 2008, learning how to shoot guns and make and set off bombs.

David Brian Stone, 44, of Clayton, Mich., and one of his sons were identified as the ringleaders of the group. Stone, who was known as "Captain Hutaree," organized the group in paramilitary fashion and members were assigned secret names, prosecutors said. Ranks ranged from "radoks" to "gunners," according to the group's Web site.

"It started out as a Christian thing," Stone's ex-wife, Donna Stone, told The Associated Press. "You go to church. You pray. You take care of your family. I think David started to take it a little too far."

US transit security beefed up after Moscow blast

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. transit agencies beefed up security as a precaution Monday after the double suicide bombing in Moscow's subway system, sending more police into stations and officers to conduct random inspections of rail yards.

In New York, caravans of police vehicles were dispatched to transit hubs, and officers assigned to subways overnight were held in place so they overlapped with the day tour. Special units distinguished by their special black uniforms, helmets and body armor also were assigned to transit facilities.

In Washington, D.C., Metro police conducted random inspections of stations and rail yards, officials said. Atlanta's public transit system said its police department increased the number of officers and patrols throughout the system.

Russian authorities said two women blew themselves up in Moscow on Monday in a subway jam-packed with rush-hour passengers, killing more than 35 people. They blamed the carnage on rebels from the Caucasus region.

The federal government did not immediately make any recommendations for increased security at mass transit systems, but authorities were monitoring the situation, a U.S. official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Caucasus Islamic separatists tend to be focused on targets in the region, primarily Russia, and are not generally considered a threat to U.S. domestic interests.

"The actual Chechen rebels generally don't care about the U.S. one way or the other," said Jeffrey Mankoff, an adjunct fellow for Russian Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. "They are mainly interested in what's happening in Russia."

ACROSS THE NATION

HI resolution would recognize cockfighting's value

HONOLULU (AP)—Illegal cockfighting would be recognized for its cultural merits under a resolution advancing in the Hawaii Legislature. The House Tourism, Culture and International Affairs Committee passed the resolution Monday on a 4-2 vote, sending it to the House Judiciary Committee. The resolution doesn't have the force of law and wouldn't legalize cockfighting, which is prohibited in all 50 states. But supporters say it would recognize cockfighting's long history in Hawaii and among Filipino migrants who cherish it. They also say cockfighting is widespread on the islands, and legitimizing it could boost the economy. Animal rights groups oppose the measure, saying cockfighting is a cruel blood sport.

Republicans spent $1,946 at topless club

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Republican National Committee spent $1,946 last month at a sex-themed Hollywood club that features topless dancers and bondage outfits. Now the GOP wants its money back. Listed in a monthly financial report, the amount is itemized as expenses for meals at Voyeur West Hollywood. RNC spokesman Doug Heye said Monday the committee doesn't know the details of how the money was spent, all who may have attended or the nature of the outing, except to say it was an unauthorized event and that the expenditure was inappropriate. The RNC will be reimbursed by Erik Brown of Orange, Calif., the donor-vendor who billed the committee for the club visit, Heye said.

Tennessee man pleads guilty in plot against Obama

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP)—A Tennessee man authorities say is a white supremacist has pleaded guilty to plotting to kill then-presidential candidate Barack Obama and dozens of other black people in 2008. Twenty-one-year-old Daniel Cowart of Bells, Tenn., pleaded guilty Monday to eight of 10 counts in an indictment accusing him of conspiracy, threatening a presidential candidate and various federal firearms violations. Under a plea agreement, he faces 12 to 18 years in prison, but a federal judge could choose a longer sentence. Co-defendant, 19-year-old Paul Schlesselman of Helena-West Helena, Ark., pleaded guilty in January and will be sentenced April 15.

Asia

RP clears clan head of rebellion charges

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has dismissed rebellion charges against a powerful clan leader and dozens of his followers but they remain in custody for their alleged role in the election-related massacre of 57 people, officials said Monday.

The Nov. 23 slaughter was unprecedented even in a country known for election violence and political killings that have claimed hundreds of lives in the last 10 years. Only the war crime trials of World War II Japanese commanders in the Philippines involved higher numbers of victims, said former Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera.

Among the dead were more than 30 journalists and their staff—the deadliest known attack on media workers in the world. The killings elevated the Philippines to the top of a list of the world's most dangerous places for journalists.

Prosecutors charged Andal Ampatuan Sr., his four sons and followers with rebellion for allegedly plotting to stage an armed uprising after the government began to crack down on them when they were linked to the massacre.

They were separately charged with multiple murders and so are not eligible for bail.

Among the massacre victims were supporters and relatives of the Ampatuans' political rival, Esmael Mangudadatu, who is running for governor of predominantly Muslim Maguindanao. They were headed to an election office to file Mangudadatu's candidacy papers when their convoy was stopped at gunpoint. They were later found shot to death on a nearby hilltop, along with the journalists covering the event.

Judge Vivencio Baclig cleared the Ampatuans and their followers of rebellion charges for lack of evidence.

SKorean defense min: Warship may have struck mine

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A naval mine dispatched from North Korea may have struck the South Korean warship that exploded and sank near the Koreas' disputed sea border, the defense minister told lawmakers Monday, laying out several scenarios for the maritime disaster.

Defense Minister Kim Tae-young said there was no sign of a direct attack from rival North Korea, but military authorities have not ruled out North Korean involvement in the sinking of the Cheonan late Friday night.

An explosion ripped the 1,200-ton ship apart during a routine patrol mission near Baengnyeong Island west of the peninsula. Fifty-eight crew members, including the captain, were plucked to safety; 46 remain missing.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the exact cause would remain unclear until the ship is salvaged after the rescue operation is over. On Monday, mothers beat their chests with grief as divers went down to search for survivors, returning to report hearing no sounds inside the underwater wreckage.

Kim, grilled by lawmakers on what happened Friday night, said the ship may have struck a mine left over from the war or deliberately dispatched from the North.

The two Koreas remain in a state of war because their three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953. North Korea disputes the sea border drawn by the United Nations in 1953, and the western waters near the spot where the Cheonan went down have been the site of three bloody skirmishes between North and South.

Clinton: China to play role in Iran sanctions push

OTTAWA (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that China agrees Iran must not become a nuclear weapons power and that the fellow Security Council member will play a role in forging sanctions against the Islamic republic at the United Nations.

In the Canadian capital for a meeting of top diplomats from the Group of Eight leading industrialized democracies, Clinton said that despite China's general opposition to international sanctions, it will contribute to the process at the U.N. Security Council.

The U.S. is leading the charge to penalize Iran for refusing to prove that its nuclear ambitions are peaceful. China is a permanent member of the Security Council and can block new sanctions with a veto, so its support for sanctions will be crucial.

"China is part of the consultative group that has been unified all along the way, which has made it very clear that a nuclear-armed Iran is not acceptable to the international community," Clinton said in an interview with Canadian television.

"I think as the weeks go forward and we begin the hard work of trying to come up with a Security Council resolution, China will be involved, they will be making their suggestions," she said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

No communication from 153 trapped in China mine

XIANGNING, China (AP)—Rescuers pumped water from a flooded mine in northern China where time is running out for 153 trapped workers as efforts stretched into a second day with no communication from those stuck deep underground. Some 1,000 rescue workers were rotating on shifts to try to drain enough water to reach the trapped miners, but the rescue effort could take days. It was unclear if anyone was still alive in the shafts, some which extended a half-mile (one kilometer) into the earth. The accident could be one of the worst mining disasters in recent years if rescue efforts fail and would set back marked improvements in mining safety. "Their situation until now is still unknown so that is making everyone very worried," said Liu Dezheng, a chief engineer with the work safety bureau in northern China's Shanxi province, where the mine is located.

Mixed reaction to Myanmar opposition party boycott

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Many residents of Myanmar's largest city Tuesday greeted a decision by the party of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi to boycott elections with rousing approval but others blamed it for leaving them with little choice in the military-organized balloting. In a bold gamble, the National League for Democracy on Monday decided to opt out of the country's first election in two decades, following the lead of the detained Nobel Prize laureate who had earlier denounced the laws guiding the election as undemocratic. The decision, approved by an unanimous vote of the 113 executive members, spotlights the question of the polls' credibility. The NLD won the most parliamentary seats in the last election in 1990, whose results the military refused to honor.

US and Vietnam sign nuclear energy agreement

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The United States and Vietnam signed an agreement Tuesday that may pave the way for U.S. firms to help build nuclear plants in the Southeast Asian country as it strives to meet booming energy demand. The new agreement addresses nuclear safety and nonproliferation concerns and is a prerequisite to a deal that could allow companies like Westinghouse and General Electric to participate in Vietnam's nuclear energy sector. "This is an important moment in our bilateral relations," U.S. Ambassador Michael Michalak said during a signing ceremony with Le Dinh Tien, Vietnam's vice minister of science and technology.

World

Death toll from Moscow subway blasts rises to 39

MOSCOW (AP)—A woman has died in a clinic from wounds suffered in the double suicide bombing of the Moscow subway, officials said Tuesday, raising the death toll to 39 as the country entered a day of mourning.

Five people remain in critical condition out of 71 hospitalized after the blasts that were blamed on Chechen rebels, city health department official Andrei Seltsovsky told the Rossiya-24 state news channel. Only eight victims had been formally identified, he said.

The preliminary investigation found that female suicide bombers detonated belts of explosives during the Monday morning rush-hour at two central Moscow subway stations. It was the first terrorist activity in the Russian capital for years.

Flags flew at half staff on government buildings and at the Kremlin as a day of national mourning began. Entertainment events and shows on television were cancelled. Services were to be held at several churches.

Heightened transportation security remained in effect across the capital and in cities across Russia. Police with machine guns and sniffer dogs patrolled subway entrances.

Monday's first explosion took place just before 8 a.m. at the Lubyanka station in central Moscow, beneath the notorious headquarters of the Federal Security Service or FSB, the KGB's main successor agency. The FSB is a symbol of power under Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, a former KGB officer who headed the agency before his election as president in 2000.

Rights group: Europe was execution-free in 2009

LONDON (AP)—Europe had its first year without executions in 2009, human rights group Amnesty International said Tuesday. But the London-based organization said the spell was recently broken by the execution of two men in Belarus—an indication of the challenges the group faces as it fights to abolish capital punishment.

Amnesty International has been tracking executions internationally since 1980, although their figures don't include extra-judicial killings or the casualties of war. Western European countries such as France, Britain and Germany abolished the death penalties in the years following World War II, and abolition spread rapidly through Eastern Europe with the collapse of Iron Curtain.

Many former Soviet satellites banned capital punishment in the 1980s and '90s. Russia and Ukraine have not executed anyone more than a decade. Amnesty said that Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan have executed about 130 people between them over the past 10 years, but since 2006 Belarus has been the only European state to carry out death sentences.

The death penalty is "on its way out," according to Amnesty's interim Secretary General Claudio Cordone, before acknowledging that countries such as Belarus were a "hard core" where the practice would likely linger for some time.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cardinal accuses Hugo Chavez of persecuting foes

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The leader of Venezuela's Roman Catholic Church accused the government of President Hugo Chavez on Monday of using judges and prosecutors to punish political adversaries. Cardinal Jorge Urosa said authorities are unfairly prosecuting Chavez opponents for simply criticizing the government. Urosa said an increasing number of Chavez's foes are being "imprisoned for their opinion" and he urged Venezuelans to speak out against "any violation of human rights." Human rights groups already have expressed concerns that Chavez is becoming increasingly authoritarian and cracking down on dissent.

Mexico detains suspect in killings of 2 Americans

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Mexican soldiers have arrested a gang member suspected in the killings of three people linked to the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state police said Monday. The announcement came a day after gunmen in another northern state killed 10 young people riding in pickup truck when they didn't stop at a gang's illegal roadblock, authorities said. Police spokesman Enrique Torres said the consulate shooting suspect arrested Friday was a member of the Barrio Azteca gang, which authorities say works for the Juarez drug cartel on both sides of the border.

Geneva atom smasher set for record collisions

GENEVA (AP)—The world's largest atom smasher is ready to start a new era of science, colliding beams of protons to learn more about the make up of the universe and its smallest particles. Dubbed the world's largest scientific experiment, the $10 billion Large Hadron Collider holds the promise of revealing details about theoretical particles and microforces, scientists say. Two beams of protons began 10 days ago to speed at high energy in opposite directions around the 27-kilometer (17-mile) tunnel under the Swiss-French border at Geneva. The beams have been pushed to 3.5 trillion electron volts, the highest energy achieved by any physics accelerator—some three times greater than the previous record.

Campus Life

Golden Harvest takes pride in Parade of Books win

Students from Kindergarten to third grade of Golden Harvest International School garnered the third place award among 14 participating public and private schools in the 6th Parade of Books competition held at the Marianas High School gym on March 27, 2010.

The school's portrayal of *Beauty and the Beast* received a total of 228 points and the school is proud of this achievement, considering that this was the first time they participated in this annual event.

"To be awarded the third place and win the cash prize of $500 was unexpected and overwhelming. Despite the limited preparation time for the presentation, costumes, props and backdrops, all the sacrifices and hard work of GHIS teachers, students, PTSA officers and parents paid off! Thanks to Rotary Club of Saipan for promoting literacy among our school children," said the school in a statement. ***(PR)***

SAEF students haul medals in PGFC tilt

Saipan American Education Foundation students acquitted themselves well in the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Kagman Elementary School. The following are the winners:

PGFC Regional Competition (March 6, 2010)

Round 1 K-2 Division
Duo A – 2nd place
Ava De Leon Guerrero
Mitziko Yema

Choral Speaking A – 3rd place
Elaina Shaine Santos
Keisha Jane Fajardo
Esther Kim
Deirdre Mae Rosete
Andrea Nicole Aberas

Semi Finals
Reader's Forum – A
5th place
Andrea Nicole Aberas

Choral Speaking – 4th place
Elaina Shaine Santos
Keisha Jane Fajardo
Esther Kim
Deirdre Mae Rosete
Andrea Nicole Aberas

3-5 Division
Reader's Forum – D – 1st place
Myka Villegas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan American Education Foundation School students show off the medals and ribbons they won. Special thanks to all students, teachers, and parents for their time, dedication and hard work.

Reader's Forum – E – 5th place
Mariel Angela Reyes

Reader's Forum – H – 5th place
JD Faye Pascua

Impromptu – A – 2nd place
Janos Angelo Reyes

Impromptu – B – 5th place
Joneil Matthew Santos

Humorous Interpretation – A
4th place
Myka Villegas

Humorous Interpretation – B
1st place
Stephen Seth Alonzo

Duo Interpretation – A
2nd place
Kiana Villegas
Kristine Fajardo

Duo Interpretation – B
5th place
Kyle Villegas
JD Faye Pascua

Duo Interpretation – 5th place
Kyle Villegas

Choral Speaking – A –
2nd place
Kiana Villegas
Kristine Fajardo
Eden Conner
Mariel Angela Reyes

Semi Finals
Duo Interpretation – A
1st place
Kiana Villegas
Kristine Fajardo

Finals
Duo Interpretation
Gold Medal
Kiana Villegas
Kristine Fajardo

...and in NJFL competition

Students of the Saipan American Education Foundation went home with several awards after participating in the National Junior Forensic League competition held on March 26 and 27 at the Hopwood Junior High School.

SEMI FINALS
Story Telling – A
2nd place - Rebekah Kim
4th place - Karen Fajardo

Story Telling – B
3rd place - Claire Lanuza

Original Oratory – B
4th place - Vickie Abalin

Duo Interpretation – A
1st place - Young Arvi Cucal
Pavan Hemlani

2nd place – Husky Vi Cucal
John Joshua Valiente

FINALS
Story Telling
2nd place (Silver Medal) – Rebekah Kim

Duo Interpretation
4th place - Young Arvi Cucal
Pavan Hemlani

5th place – Husky Vi Cucal
John Joshua Valiente

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan American Education Foundation 's NJFL winners and teachers/coaches pose for a victory photo after participating in the competition held last Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27, at Hopwood Junior High School.

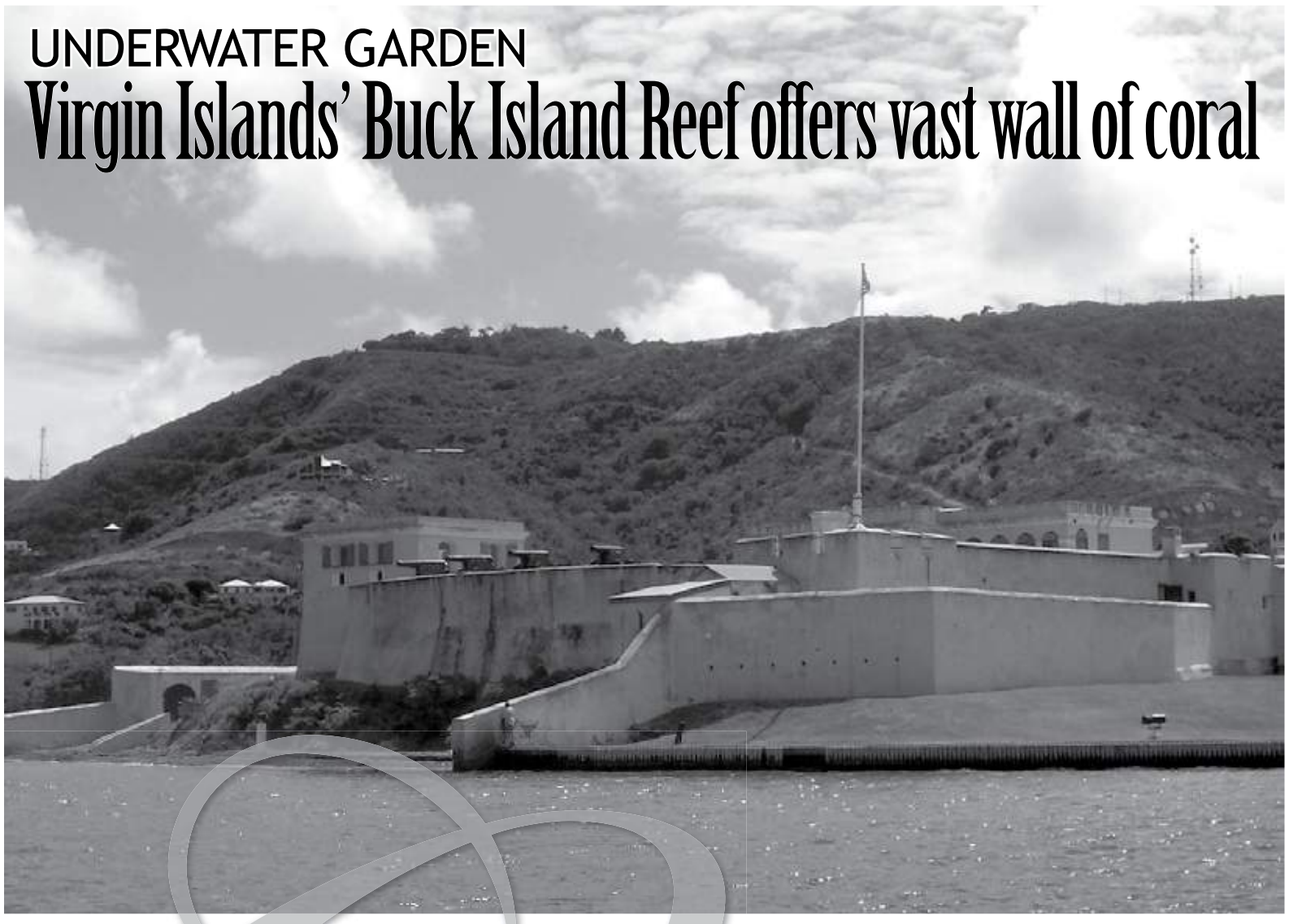
CHAMORRO LANGUAGE CONTEST
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
GCA Tinian won gold in the Children's Choir category in the Middle School Division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
GCA Tinian also bagged a gold medal in the Choral Reading category in the Middle School Division.

Life & Style

UNDERWATER GARDEN

Virgin Islands' Buck Island Reef offers vast wall of coral



MCT

Yellow-colored Fort Christiansted was completed by the Danish in 1749 to protect St. Croix and its sugar cane mills from pirates, privateers and slave uprisings. In the early 1800s, the island had nearly 220 plantations with more than 26,500 slaves.

By BOB DOWNING
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

CHRISTIANSTED, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands—Buck Island Reef, with its extraordinary coral and rich sea life, is very cool.

The reefs and surrounding waters, ranked among the top snorkeling spots in the Caribbean, lie within a 19,015-acre national monument. It is one of three underwater parks in the national park system.

Snorkelers and divers at Buck Island Reef will find what has been described by the National Park Service as "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea."

Buck Island is the No. 1 tourist attraction on St. Croix, the largest of the American Virgin Islands (with St. Thomas and St. John).

The barrier reef that surrounds two-thirds of Buck Island is awesome, with elkhorn coral growing to 40 feet off the bottom in clear aquamarine waters off the north shore at St. Croix. It is a formidable wall of coral, unique in United States waters.

The fire coral is spectacular: an eye-popping yellow on the bottom. Giant brain corals are found in the calmer lagoon waters inside the reef. Red and purple sea fans abound, along with gorgonians or sea whips.

Unique elkhorn coral patches resembling haystacks are found outside the reef. Star coral may also be found outside the reef, except to the southwest.

In the calmer lagoon waters, snorkelers and divers will find fish-filled grottos with colorful corals that extend nearly to the water's surface, along with sponges and crustaceans.

It's a marvelous underwater world of ever-changing shapes, colors, patterns, textures and movement that will take your breath away.

The water is only 12 feet deep in most of the grottoes, so you are very close to the 250 species of fish found in the 80-degree water.

There are colorful parrotfish, French angelfish, trumpetfish, box fish, butterfly fish and blue tangs. Some are easy to spot with their neon colors. Others hide in nooks along the reef. Some are solitary. Others travel in schools.

A few barracudas up to 4 feet long flashed by on my recent snorkel trek to the reef and the designated underwater trail at the eastern end of Buck Island.

Spotted eagle rays, nurse sharks, lemon sharks and juvenile blacktip reef sharks and whitetip reef sharks may be seen.

Visibility underwater along the reef was excellent.

The reefs are actually complex colonies of individual animals that produce calcium carbonate skeletons, cemented together in massive but fragile formations. They grow 1 to 2 inches per year.

Coral reefs are among the most diverse ecosystems in the world. They are vulnerable to pollution, sedimentation, overfishing, sea warming and boat damage.

Buck Island is home to three species of sea turtles: the hawksbill, leatherback and green sea turtles, all at-risk species.

The leatherback turtles come to Buck Island's beaches in the spring to lay eggs. The green and hawksbill turtles nest in the summer.

Other threatened or endangered species include the brown pelican and the least tern.

The Buck Island Reef was first federally protected in 1948. The national monument was established in 1961 and was enlarged in 2001. It includes the 176-acre undeveloped island plus 18,839 acres of coral reefs and submerged land. The island is 6,000 feet long and a half-mile wide, covered by a dry tropical forest.

It is 1.5 miles from shore and 5 miles from Christiansted, the Danish-influenced city that rules the sugar cane plantations that once dominated St. Croix. The national monument gets about 50,000 visitors a year.

The only way to visit Buck Island Reef is via the park-approved concessionaires that offer half-day and full-day trips. They will provide transportation, snorkel gear and instruction. Some stop ashore.

The water on the reef can get a little choppy on windy days. That may provide problems for weak swimmers or inexperienced snorkelers.

Risks include sharp corals, stingrays, sea urchins, fire coral, fire worms and barbed snails. Jellyfish are rare and barracuda and sharks are not aggressive around snorkelers, the park service says.

Visitors can hike and picnic on the scrubby island. Its biggest attraction is Turtle Beach on the western end of the island with its white coral sand beach. It was voted one of the world's most beautiful beaches by National Geographic.

There is a poisonous plant ashore, the manchineel tree. Its sap, leaves, bark and fruit can cause a chemical burning of the skin.

Hurricane Hugo in 1989 flattened most of Buck Island's beach forest and destroyed most of the south barrier reef. Disease has also hit the corals, but they are making a comeback, the park service reports.

Scuba diving is permitted in two areas at Buck Island. No camping is permitted on the island. Water skiing, jet skiing and spear fishing are prohibited. Anchoring is prohibited in the lagoon. Boats must pick up a mooring.

IF YOU GO

FOR ST. CROIX INFORMATION
Web: http://www.visitusvi.com
Call: 800-372-USVI;
Write: P.O. Box 6400, St. Thomas, VI 00804

FOR BUCK ISLAND INFORMATION
Web: http://www.nps.gov/buis
Call: 340-773-1460
Write: National Park Service
2100 Church St., No. 100,
Christiansted, VI 00820

Buck Island is open from sunrise to sunset only.

Christiansted, the largest city on St. Croix (it's pronounced Saint Croy), is a colorful community with lots of history.

It was once the capital of the Danish West Indies and is filled with architectural treasures.

The Christiansted National Historic Site, with five yellow painted buildings including an old fort, fills the waterfront. The site celebrates the island's Danish past from 1733 to 1917.

Fort Christiansted was completed in 1749 to protect the town from pirates, privateers and slave uprisings.

St. Croix—it covers 84 square miles—was a major sugar cane and rum island. In 1803, there were 218 plantations with 26,500 slaves and 4,000 others on the island.

The best beach on St. Croix, many say, is Sandy Point at its southwestern tip.

There are more than 50 dive sites scattered around the island.

The island's eastern side is rocky and arid, while you can visit lush rain forests at its western end.

St. Croix was once favored by such swashbucklers as Henry Morgan, Blackbeard, Captain Kidd and Jean Lafitte.

Christopher Columbus dropped anchor in 1493 on the Salt River on the island's north coast and named the island Santa Cruz (Holy Cross).

The Spanish abandoned the island after fighting with native peoples. The Dutch and English tried to claim it. The Dutch fled; the English remained. They were ousted by the Spanish in 1650. The Dutch tried to reclaim the island. The French succeeded. The island was transferred to the Knights of Malta, a religious group of wealthy aristocrats. The Danish purchased the island in 1733.

St. Croix does not get as many visitors as the glitzier St. Thomas or the more protected St. John. Some like that fact. The other two islands lie about 40 miles north of St. Croix.

English is the official language, the dollar is the currency, but motorists drive on the left. Its average temperature is 82 degrees.

MCT

Buck Island, covering 176 acres, is covered by a dry tropical forest. Visitors can hike and picnic on the island that is a mile long and a half-mile wide.

'Nyet' to $1 million? Math genius may reject award

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—Who doesn't want to be a millionaire? Maybe a 43-year-old unemployed bachelor who lives with his elderly mother in Russia—and who won $1 million for solving a problem that has stumped mathematicians for a century.

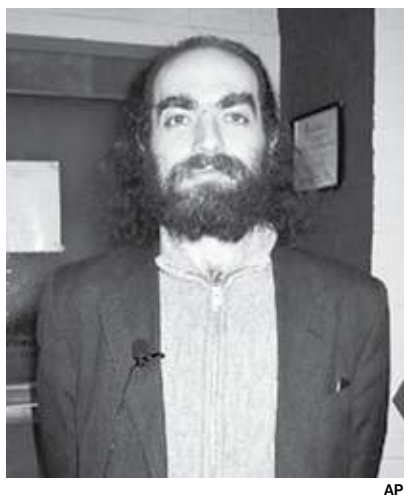
Grigory Perelman can't decide if he wants the money.

"He said he would need to think about it," said James Carlson, who telephoned Perelman with the news he had won the Millennium Prize awarded by the Clay Mathematics Institute of Cambridge, Mass.

Carlson said he wasn't too surprised by the apparent lack of interest from Perelman, a reclusive genius who has a history of refusing big prizes.

In 2006, Perelman made headlines when he stayed away from the ceremony in Madrid where he was supposed to get a Fields Medal, often called the Nobel prize of mathematics. He remained at home in St. Petersburg instead.

As for the new prize, Perelman (PER-il-mahn) told a local television station he hasn't made a decision on whether to accept the money, and that Carlson's institute will be the first to know when he does.



AP

This undated file photo released by the International Mathematician Congress shows Grigory Perelman.

Sergei Rukshin, Perelman's high school math teacher, told The Associated Press on Monday that Perelman is still unsure whether to accept it.

"I know that this time he is seriously thinking about whether he will accept the prize. He still has some time," Rukshin said. The awards ceremony is in June.

Rukshin said Perelman has been without work for four years and has declined all job offers. He previously worked at the Steklov Mathematics Institute.

"As far as I know, after there was so much media attention ... he did not want to be a public person and to look like an animal in the zoo," Rukshin said.

He said he had encouraged Perelman to accept the prize to provide for himself and his elderly mother.

Technically, the award is a done deal.

"He has been awarded the prize. That's the decision of the committee," Carlson said. "He may or may not accept the money."

Carlson declined to discuss what would happen to the $1 million if Perelman rejects it. Several groups in Russia, including the St. Petersburg Communist Party, have made public appeals to Perelman to give them the cash to fight poverty if he doesn't want it for himself.

Perelman was honored for proving the Poincare (pwan-kah-RAY) conjecture, which deals with shapes that exist in four or more dimensions, rather than the familiar three dimensions. The conjecture proposes a test for determining whether a shape in such space, no matter how distorted, is a three-dimensional sphere.

That was one of seven problems the Clay institute identified in 2000 as being worthy of a $1 million Millennium Prize. It's the first problem on the list to be solved.

The Clay institute was founded in 1998 by Landon T. Clay, a Boston businessman, and his wife, Lavinia D. Clay.

Tamara Yefimova, a deputy director of Perelman's high school who has known the mathematician since he was a student there, said that once he started working on the Poincare conjecture he became totally absorbed in it.

She said Perelman stopped visiting his old school to help students and stopped attending meetings of the city's math society.

As a high school student, Perelman obviously was the most gifted student, Yefimova said. The only reason he didn't get a gold medal upon graduation, she said, was that the unathletic scholar didn't get the top grade in physical education. Perelman went on to earn college and postgraduate degrees in mathematics and mechanical engineering from Leningrad State University and Steklov Mathematics Institute.

"It could have been only him who would solve the Poincare conjecture," Yefimova said.

Indeed, Carlson said, Perelman's solution was "a truly amazing piece of mathematics."

Perelman lives in an aging three-room high-rise apartment with his mother and doesn't like to pick up awards he's won, money or not. What is going on here?

Dean Simonton, a psychology professor at the University of California, Davis, said the field of abstract mathematics can attract people who live in extreme isolation, are aggressively nonconformist and "too often let their personalities interfere with their professional success."

Thomas Greenspon, a Minneapolis psychologist who has long worked with gifted children and adults, speculated that Perelman may be reacting to growing up brilliant.

"It's easy to grow up feeling bad about yourself and maybe even feeling like a freak and sort of reacting accordingly," so social skills can suffer, he said.

Mathematicians will gather in Paris in June to celebrate Perelman's achievement and put on some kind of ceremony whether he's there or not.

Does Carlson care whether Perelman shows up?

"It would be nice," Carlson said. "But on the other hand, I respect his desire for calm and tranquility."

Sarkozy Sr.'s tell-all book counters critics

PARIS (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy's father, a self-confessed bon vivant and womanizer, said he is setting the record on his life straight in an autobiography written above all for his children, and meant to counter claims he was a bad father.

Pal Sarkozy wrote "Tant de Vie"—which translates as "So Much Life"—after his son, the French president, advised him against filing lawsuits against his disparagers and instead to "answer later ... about all these unjust accusations," the 81-year-old said in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press.

Sarkozy

So the book is above all a family affair, he said. "This wasn't for the world, it was for my family."

"I wanted to talk to my children," and a book was "the simplest thing," he said in the interview, given on the sidelines of France's annual Book Fair.

A Hungarian immigrant who arrived in France in 1948 penniless, Pal Sarkozy concedes that he hid his past and failed to pass on his heritage to his five children—four sons and a daughter from two of his four wives—because "I wanted them to become French."

The book gives a rare look into the life of a president's father—the first modern-day French president with both parents still living.

But Pal Sarkozy questioned whether his son, Nicolas, should even want to make a second run for re-election in 2012.

"I think for him he will have a lot fewer worries than he has now" if he doesn't seek a second mandate, the father said, looking relaxed in blue jeans and a light blue pullover. "He won't have this enormous burden of 70 million people."

He brushed aside his son's growing political troubles—from a weekend poll giving him only a 30 percent satisfaction rating, to his conservative party's huge loss in regional elections this month—which led this week's edition of Le Point magazine to run a cover story on the president titled "The Tragedy of Sarkozy."

"I see no tragedy anywhere. Perhaps it will help him climb in the polls, which I hope," he said. "Polls, they change every day."

As a child, he said, Nicolas was the most "turbulent" among his sons. Today, the president maintains a high-speed agenda, but first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy calms him, his father said.

"Each time she enters a room and Nicolas is there, you see right away that Nicolas relaxes. He has a different smile on his lips than when she isn't there."

Scores of people, cameras clicking, surrounded Pal Sarkozy when he arrived at the fair to autograph copies of his book, written with Frederique Drouin.

"He has more success than his son," laughed 60-year-old Odile Bastard, among the crowd.

The book recounts Pal Sarkozy's aristocratic upbringing in Hungary, occupied by the Nazis then the Soviets, and his escape to Paris, with a one-month stint in the Foreign Legion on his way to the capital. He says he arrived penniless and without shoes, and spent his first night sleeping on a sidewalk grate of a Metro at the Etoile, the famous roundabout at the top of the Champs-Elysees Avenue.

Once he gained professional success as advertising executive, "France fit me like a Lanvin suit." He admits, "I was without brakes and without limits."

The book is peppered with accounts of his prolific love life, from his first experience at age 11 with his nurse in Hungary to the mistresses who dotted his married life.

Why tell the world?

"All of my family laughed a lot about what I said, and they're not upset with me at all."

"Contrary to legend, I never abandoned them (the children), physically or financially, but it is exact that it is their mothers who were in charge of their education," he wrote in his book.

AP

Actor and honoree Matt Damon speaks at The 24th American Cinematheque Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Damon gets film society award and good-natured barbs

By SUSAN KING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The 24th annual American Cinematheque Award presentation to Matt Damon on Saturday night was far more Friars Club Roast than earnest tribute to the 39-year-old actor-humanitarian.

The only thing missing onstage at the Beverly Hilton International Ballroom was Dean Martin, who used to host those old celebrity roasts on NBC way back when.

Instead of Dino dishing out the zingers, there was talk-show host Jimmy Kimmel, who opened the breezy, bawdy ceremony by ticking off the films of another actor named Matt.

"I was under the impression this was a salute to Matt Dillon," he quipped. Kimmel pointed out that Damon, the star of the Jason Bourne trilogy as well as such films as "Good Will Hunting," for which he and longtime friend Ben Affleck won an Oscar for original screenplay, was way too young to receive a lifetime achievement award.

"I don't feel like he deserves a salute," Kimmel deadpanned, adding that the Cinematheque should honor "High School Musical" star Vanessa Hudgens.

Of course, Kimmel and Damon have had a faux feud going for several years on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Two years ago, Kimmel's then-girlfriend, comedian Sarah Silverman, and Damon performed a ribald song proclaiming she was having an affair with the actor. Kimmel responded with a song informing her that he was having an affair with Affleck.

Clips from Kimmel's show were screened during the evening, including one in which the comedian's sidekick, Guillermo Rodriguez, pretended to be Bourne.

The evening, which will be televised this spring on ABC, was a fundraiser for the nonprofit American Cinematheque, which holds year-round public film and video programs at the Egyptian and Aero theaters. Previous Cinematheque honorees include Samuel L. Jackson, Julia Roberts and George Clooney.

Charlize Theron, who appeared with Damon in "The Legend of Bagger Vance," took on a more serious tone when she talked about Damon's work for Water.org, a nonprofit organization co-founded by Damon that assists developing countries in providing safe drinking water for all. "He uses his influence carefully," she said.

Affleck presented his buddy of 30 years with the Cinematheque award."Who would imagine Matt would be here tonight?" Affleck asked. "No one."

Accepting the award, Damon said that "this is way too much attention for one person" and then proceeded to skewer everyone who had roasted him that night.

Damon was thanking his family when Rodriguez, Kimmel's sidekick, interrupted him.

"You're done," he said, as he pushed Damon off the stage.

Ricky Martin is livin' la vida open, says he's gay

AP

In this Nov. 19, 2009 file photo, Latin singer Ricky Martin poses for the photographers after the start of the RTL donation-marathon in Cologne, Germany.

NEW YORK (AP)—Ricky Martin is no longer denying the rumors: He's gay.

In a statement posted via Twitter in both Spanish and English, and later confirmed with his representative, Martin said: "I am proud to say that I am a fortunate homosexual man. I am very blessed to be who I am."

For many, Monday's announcement will come as no surprise; the "Livin' La Vida Loca" singer's sexuality has been speculated about for years. But the Puerto Rican star, who got his start as a child in the teen group Menudo, never directly addressed it and was usually seen at events with beautiful women on his arm.

Martin, 38, said he decided to reveal the truth after working on his memoirs helped him realize that he had to be free with himself, and not keep any more secrets.

"From the moment I wrote the first phrase I was sure the book was the tool that was going to help me free myself from things I was carrying within me for a long time. Things that were too heavy for me to keep inside," he said. "Writing this account of my life, I got very close to my truth. And this is something worth celebrating."

Martin said one of the reasons why he kept his homosexuality hidden was because he was told by some that it would hurt his career. While his U.S. career peaked after the release of his 1999 self-titled English album, a multiplatinum success that included the hits "Livin' La Vida Loca" and "Shake Your Bon-Bon," he is still a hugely successful Latin artist.

"Because all this advice came from people who I love dearly, I decided to move on with my life not sharing with the world my entire truth," he said in his statement. "Allowing myself to be seduced by fear and insecurity became a self-fulfilling prophecy of sabotage. Today I take full responsibility for my decisions and my actions."

Martin, who is the father of two boys born via surrogate in 2008, said he couldn't continue to hide his sexuality now that he is a father: "Enough is enough. This has to change."

Martin's book is still a work in progress.

DreamWorks shares drop after 'Dragon' opening

AP

In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Hiccup, voiced by Jay Baruchel, rides Toothless a scene is shown from "How to Train Your Dragon."

NEW YORK (AP)—Shares of DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. dropped Monday after disappointing ticket sales for the movie "How to Train Your Dragon" during its opening weekend.

The stock fell $3.94, or 9.2 percent, to $38.87 in morning trading. The stock has ranged from $17.95 to $44.77 over the past year.

The studio's latest animated adventure pulled in $43.3 million, taking the No. 1 spot for the weekend. But it came in well below DreamWorks' "Monsters vs. Aliens," which made $59.3 million over the same weekend last year.

In a note to investors, Jefferies & Co. analyst Brian Shipman said he was expecting box office sales of $64 million, but added, "Word of mouth and strong reviews could partially offset the light weekend."

Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter said the results were especially disappointing given the number of 3-D screens DreamWorks was able to line up for the opening.

He said there were 2,178 3-D screens showing "How to Train Your Dragon" this weekend, compared with just 1,149 for "Monsters vs. Aliens" last year. Theaters typically charge extra for 3-D showings.

Broadway's 'Memphis' set to begin tour in Memphis

NEW YORK (AP)—"Memphis" is going home.

The national tour of the Broadway musical set in the Tennessee city will begin in Memphis at the Orpheum Theatre in October 2011.

Producer Sue Frost said Monday that additional cities, dates and casting will be announced at a future date. "Memphis" tells the story of a street-smart white disc jockey who brings black music to mainstream, white audiences in the 1950s.

The show features music by Bon Jovi keyboard player David Bryan, who also co-wrote the lyrics with its book writer, Joe DiPietro (dee-pee-AY'-troh). Broadway's "Memphis" stars Chad Kimball as the white DJ and Montego Glover as a black club singer with whom he falls in love.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, from left, Clark Duke, Craig Robinson, John Cusack and Rob Corddry are shown in a scene from, "Hot Tub Time Machine."

It's about time: 10 movies that travel back in it

By RAFER GUZMÁN
NEWSDAY

The raunchy new comedy "Hot Tub Time Machine" isn't exactly going for scientific accuracy: The key ingredient that allows the characters to journey through the space-time continuum turns out to be a can of Red Bull-style energy drink.

But time travel, no matter how seriously or comedically portrayed, never loses its power over our imaginations. It's a device that allows us to break the most basic law of life: What's done is done. Of course, sometimes that works, sometimes it doesn't. Here are 10 time-travel movies, ranked from the most realistic to the most ridiculous—which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

1. PRIMER (2004)

PLOT: In a Texas suburb, two engineers accidentally create a time-travel device. Their first thought: stock market! Their next thought: everything else.
TWO-TIMING: In this low-budget but highly complex film, the heroes create doubles of themselves in a temporary, temporal loop. In other words: mind-boggling.

2. TIME AFTER TIME (1979)

PLOT: Victorian Londoner H.G. Wells (Malcolm McDowell) chases Jack the Ripper (David Warner) into modern-day San Francisco.
FUTURE SHOCK: The Ripper finds that our violent era suits him, while Wells—who in his time argued for free love—finds a few upsides as well.

3. BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985)

PLOT: Michael J. Fox plays Marty McFly, a teenager who travels to the 1950s to turn his nebbishy father (Crispin Glover) into a stand-up guy.
SWEET RIDE: The time-traveling DeLorean is more memorable than believable, but there's some logic to the notion that Marty might cease to exist if his parents never meet.

4. THE TIME MACHINE (1960)

PLOT: Once again, H.G. Wells (Rod Taylor) is traveling in a machine of his own invention. This time, he journeys beyond the present day into a (seemingly) peaceful future.
SQUARE ONE: Arguably the first major time-travel movie, this adaptation of Wells' novel raises broad questions about civilization, evolution and war.

5. TIME BANDITS (1981)

PLOT: Lonely young Kevin is befriended by a troupe of time-traveling dwarves who take him back to Ancient Greece.
VISION THING: The real attraction here is watching writer-director Terry Gilliam reveal his future style, a mix of medieval grittiness and steampunk machinery.

6. PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED (1986)

PLOT: Peggy Sue (Kathleen Turner) travels back to 1960 and tries to repair her broken marriage to Charlie (Nicolas Cage).
SIMPLE SOLUTION: Who needs a machine? In this movie, Peggy Sue simply faints at her high-school reunion and wakes up in a different decade.

7. THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (2009)

PLOT: Henry (Eric Bana) loves Clare (Rachel McAdams) but suffers from a genetic condition that causes him to bop all over the timeline.
FREE RANGE: Why is Henry limited to our contemporary era? This overly serious romance would have been more fun if he occasionally popped up in a dinosaur's lair, or landed in the Jetsons' living room.

8. STAR TREK IV: THE VOYAGE HOME (1986)

PLOT: The crew of the Enterprise discover that Earth's existence depends on the survival of humpback whales, already extinct.
HIGHLY ILLOGICAL: Slingshotting around the sun to go back in time? That's almost as goofy as Superman rewinding the clock by forcing Earth to rotate the other way.

9. BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (1989)

PLOT: Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves play two high-school metalheads whose history report becomes more interesting than they expected.
BOGUS!: Almost nothing in this absurd comedy is believable, and fans wouldn't have it any other way. Still, the similarities between Socrates' teachings and Kansas' rock ballad "Dust in the Wind" are uncanny.

10. HOT TUB TIME MACHINE (2010)

PLOT: Four dudes at a ski resort are transported back to 1986.
WHY ARGUE?: You want logic in a movie with this title? The emphasis here is on crude humor and nostalgic nods to the '80s, with a plot twist lifted directly from "Back to the Future."

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony rapper arrested at Ohio show

CLEVELAND (AP)—A rap artist from the group Bone Thugs-N-Harmony has been arrested during an Ohio concert on 12-year-old charges that he roughed up his mother with a gun. Thirty-six-year-old Stanley Howse —whose stage name is Flesh-N-Bone —was in jail Monday, a day after he was taken into custody during a show in the group's hometown of Cleveland.

Sheriff's spokesman John O'Brien says deputies didn't wait until after the show because Howse seemed to notice them, invited audience members to the stage and tried to slip out. He was arrested backstage.

O'Brien says Howse was wanted on domestic violence and felonious assault charges. The rapper is accused of striking his mother with a gun in 1998, leaving a 1-inch gash on her head.

Court records do not list an attorney for Howse.

AP

In this booking mug released by the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office on Monday, March 29, 2010, Stanley Howse, whose stage name is Flesh-N-Bone from the group Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, is shown in police custody in Cleveland, Ohio.

Teri Hatcher to launch 'Chick's Guide' Web site

NEW YORK (AP)—Teri Hatcher is launching a Web project titled "A Chick's Guide to Life."

The Web site, GetHatched.com, was announced Monday by the Walt Disney Co. It will begin in May and be produced by DisneyFamily.com.

The "Desperate Housewives" star and a team of experts will contribute to the site, which will include blogs and a video series. Hatcher said the site will offer "solutions to the needs and obligations of today's modern woman."

The 45-year-old Hatcher is a twice-divorced mother of a 12-year-old daughter. She also wrote the 2006 book "Burnt Toast: And Other Philosophies of Life."

AP

In this April 18, 2009 file photo, Teri Hatcher, a cast member in the series "Desperate Housewives," arrives at The Paley Center for Media's Paleyfest 09 in Los Angeles.

Jesse Jackson again critical of Portland police

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson is back in Portland, Ore., and he's critical of another fatal shooting involving police.

The longtime civil rights leader visited the city in February, shortly after an officer shot and killed an unarmed man, Aaron Campbell, on Jan. 29 in what began as a welfare check.

On Monday, Jackson said he thinks the March 22 fatal shooting of a homeless man by a different Portland officer was an excessive use of force and reflects the need for better police training.

The officer who fatally shot Jack Dale Collins had responded to an arboretum after reports that a man with a knife was threatening people. Police say the homeless man was shot after he refused to drop the knife and "physical barriers" prevented the officer from retreating farther.

The Portland officers union president has said the officer in last week's shooting responded as he'd been trained.

In this April 7, 1998 file photo, Chastity Bono is shown in Palm Springs, Calif.

AP

Chaz Bono asks judge to change name, gender

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chaz Bono is asking a judge to formally change his name and gender.

The 41-year-old writer, activist and reality-TV star, was born a girl to Sonny Bono and Cher. He filed a petition to change his name and gender last week.

Bono's doctor filed a declaration with the court indicating he performed a gender-change operation last year.

Formerly called Chastity, Bono has called the gender change "the best decision I've ever made."

The filing was first reported by celebrity Web site TMZ.com.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for May 6 in Santa Monica, Calif.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Changes coming to 'So You Think You Can Dance'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"So You Think You Can Dance" is getting some new moves. The Fox network said Monday that multiple changes are planned for the dance competition's upcoming seventh season. The series is narrowing the finalist field from 20 dancers to 10 —five women, five men —with one contestant eliminated each week instead of two. Dancers will also be partnered with past contestants instead of each other for the first time. "So You Think You Can Dance" is scheduled to premiere May 27. Krump dancer Russell Ferguson won the sixth season's $250,000 grand prize.

CKX confirms buyout talks; shares jump

NEW YORK (AP)—CKX Inc., the media company behind "American Idol," is confirming that it is in talks to sell the company. The company did not give a price or say who the prospective buyer is. It also cautioned Monday that a deal still might not happen and said it won't be releasing more details until it has a firm agreement. The disclosure comes after The Wall Street Journal reported on its Web site Friday that CKX is close to selling itself to the private equity firm One Equity Partners for about $6 per share. That would be a 9 percent premium to the stock's close of $5.48 on Thursday. The stock closed Monday up 9 cents, or 1.5 percent, to $6.05, after hitting $6.20 earlier in the session. In addition to "American Idol," CKX also owns and develops other entertainment content, including licensing the name and likeness of Elvis Presley and Muhammad Ali.

'Freakonomics' to close Tribeca Film Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—"Freakonomics," a documentary based on the best-selling nonfiction book, will close the Tribeca Film Festival. The movie is based on the 2005 book by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. It's directed by five filmmakers, including Alex Gibney and Morgan Spurlock. Spurlock directed the Oscar-nominated documentary "Super Size Me." Gibney's film "Taxi to the Dark Side" was the Academy Award for best documentary in 2008. He has three films at the Tribeca festival. He will also screen his "My Trip to Al-Qaeda" and an unfinished version of a documentary on former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer. The ninth annual Tribeca Film Festival runs from April 21 to May 2. The festival earlier announced the rest of its lineup.

Metropolitan Opera star Blanche Thebom dead at 94

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Blanche Thebom, a mezzo-soprano who sang more than 350 performances with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, has died at age 94. From the 1944 to 1967, Thebom was a star of the Met, part of a wave of American opera singers to gain international fame. She was best known for her Wagner performances, including roles as Brangaene in "Tristan and Isolde" and Fricka in "Die Walkuere." Born in Monessen, Pa., Thebom was discovered while singing in a shipboard lounge as a teenager. After retiring from the Met, she taught opera at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, then established the Opera Arts Training Program in San Francisco to nurture the talent of young girls. A longtime friend says Thebom died March 23 of pneumonia in her San Francisco home.

'Walking Dead' comic book headed to AMC network

NEW YORK (AP)—AMC network says it's bringing the popular "Walking Dead" comic book to TV as a live-action series set to debut in October. Created by Robert Kirkman, "The Walking Dead" explores the aftermath of a world overrun by zombies. It follows a group of human survivors, led by police officer Rick Grimes, who journey in search of a safe home. AMC announced Monday that the series will begin filming in Atlanta in June. It was initially scheduled for six episodes. Only Jon Bernthal has been announced for the cast. Among those behind the camera is executive producer Gale Anne Hurd, whose feature credits include "The Terminator," "Aliens" and "Armageddon."

Wife thinks stay-at-home dad needs to get up and go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Roy" for 27 years. For the past 14, he has been a stay-at-home dad. He took on the primary job of raising our two kids, now ages 13 and 16, while my career soared. The problem is, we never agreed to this arrangement.

Roy left his job at a critical time out of anger and missed out on some major retraining. He kept saying he'd start his own business or get work, but he never did. He also never made up for the loss in skills. Instead, he stayed home, moped about, and now at 56 would have serious difficulty finding a job in his field if he wanted to. (I don't think he really wants to anymore.)

Roy is not happy or fulfilled being at home and does nothing to get going on anything else. I'm so frustrated with him I can no longer stand it. I'm ashamed that I let this happen. For the last few years I have told him repeatedly he has to get busy with a career, go back to school, something—anything—or else. But each deadline I set passes with no change. Should I leave him?

MISERABLE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MISERABLE: Not yet. Your husband may be chronically depressed, which is why he mopes around and has given up on establishing himself independent of you. Instead of giving Roy more ultimatums that are never enforced, encourage him to talk to a psychologist. It isn't as though he has spent the last 15 years being idle. If your children are living up to their potential, his time has been well spent being a nurturing parent.

While I understand your frustration at being the sole breadwinner, recognize that you are not alone in that role these days. Many women are the heads of households, and they are not dumping their husbands en masse. Also, if your situation hasn't met both your needs it would have been over by now.

So before making any hard-and-fast decision about leaving, consult an attorney and gain some insight about divorce laws in Minnesota, because regardless of what you decide, you could find yourself supporting Roy for an extended period of time.

DEAR ABBY: When we were younger, my sister "Kara" and I were sexually abused by our pastor. Kara is now in counseling because of this, and she's insisting I do the same.

I told her I have no need for or desire to get therapy, and now she's angry with me. What my sister doesn't know is that I submitted to our pastor willingly. When I became pregnant by him at 16, I lied to my family and told them the child was a result of a one-night stand.

I am no longer involved with this man, although we parted on good terms and he continues to support our child. Should I tell my sister the truth so she'll understand why I am reluctant to seek counseling?

CONFLICTED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR CONFLICTED: You should not only tell your sister the truth, you should also join her in some of those counseling sessions. While you had sex with your pastor "willingly," you were underage. What the man did was predatory and statutory rape. If he would do this to you and your sister, what makes you think he isn't doing it to other young girls right now?

By staying silent, you may be enabling him to continue. If you are doing it for the money, there are other ways of getting support for your child. Please rethink this.

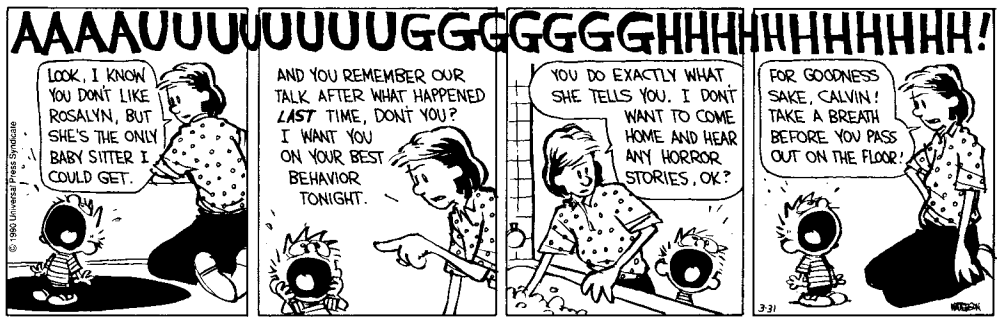
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AAAAUUUUUUUUGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHH!
LOOK, I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ROSALYN, BUT SHE'S THE ONLY BABY SITTER I COULD GET.
AND YOU REMEMBER OUR TALK AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME, DON'T YOU? I WANT YOU ON YOUR BEST BEHAVIOR TONIGHT.
YOU DO EXACTLY WHAT SHE TELLS YOU. I DON'T WANT TO COME HOME AND HEAR ANY HORROR STORIES, OK?
FOR GOODNESS SAKE, CALVIN! TAKE A BREATH BEFORE YOU PASS OUT ON THE FLOOR!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
3-31

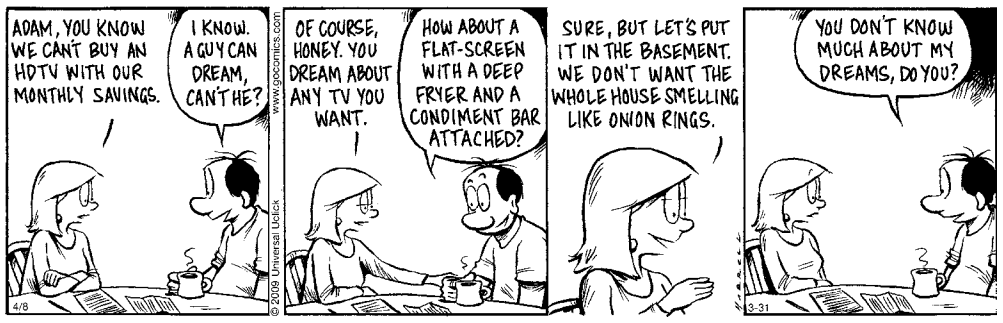
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I THINK THE COFFEE'S A LITTLE STRONG TODAY
IT DOESN'T NEED A CUP
JIM DAVIS 3-31
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, YOU KNOW WE CAN'T BUY AN HDTV WITH OUR MONTHLY SAVINGS.
I KNOW. A GUY CAN DREAM, CAN'T HE?
OF COURSE, HONEY. YOU DREAM ABOUT ANY TV YOU WANT.
HOW ABOUT A FLAT-SCREEN WITH A DEEP FRYER AND A CONDIMENT BAR ATTACHED?
SURE, BUT LET'S PUT IT IN THE BASEMENT. WE DON'T WANT THE WHOLE HOUSE SMELLING LIKE ONION RINGS.
YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MY DREAMS, DO YOU?
© 2009 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
4/8
3-31

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I PUT ONE OF THOSE INVISIBLE DOG FENCES AROUND THE TV REMOTE.
3-31
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unit of cultural information
5 "Flying Down to —"
8 Gospels' follower
12 Director Reitman
13 Work unit
14 Exceptional
15 Red flier
17 Very dry, as champagne
18 Guarantee
19 Chopin pieces
21 Church furniture
22 Information
23 Killer whale
26 Used 21-Across
28 Childhood disease
31 Pinnacle
33 Meadow
35 Angry
36 Throat affliction
38 Pismire
40 Tend the lawn
41 Act
43 Society newbie
45 Treeless tract
47 What some guests become during a wedding
51 Sea eagle
52 Sweater type
54 Storyteller
55 Yoko of music
56 Creche figures
57 Privation
58 Yang counterpart
59 — school

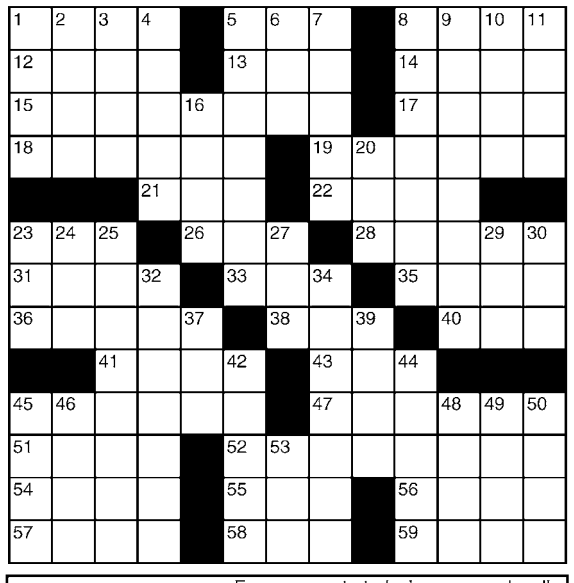
DOWN

1 Cinderella's horses, before
2 Actress — Rachel Wood
3 The Red Planet
4 Ultimately become
5 Urban modernization
6 401(k) alternative
7 Looked lecherously
8 Creeper with pink flowers
9 Spice in Indian cuisine
10 Verifiable
11 Collections
16 Enrages
20 Highland hat
23 Chances, for short
24 On a pension (Abbr.)
25 Cuban port city
27 Afternoon social
29 Expert
30 Stitch
32 Guardians
34 Half a pairat the fireplace
37 Energy
39 Take care of
42 Luring device
44 Goodyear symbol
45 Vend
46 56-Across, e.g.
48 Thickening agent
49 Carry on
50 Quick cut
53 Blackbird

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	A	D	E	■	C	B	S	■	H	O	Y	A
I	B	I	S	■	R	I	O	■	E	V	E	N
F	L	A	T	H	E	A	D	■	A	U	T	O
E	E	L	■	A	S	S	■	A	D	M	I	N
■	■	■	T	U	T	■	F	I	T	■	■	■
S	E	P	A	L	■	J	A	M	A	I	C	A
K	N	O	B	■	T	A	X	■	B	O	A	T
Y	E	L	L	O	W	Y	■	P	L	U	M	E
■	■	■	E	C	O	■	S	E	E	■	■	■
B	L	A	S	T	■	M	A	N	■	A	G	E
R	I	G	A	■	S	A	L	T	F	L	A	T
O	R	A	L	■	R	I	V	■	E	P	I	C
W	A	R	T	■	O	N	E	■	B	O	T	H

Yesterday's answer 3-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pavel Bure, 39; Ewan McGregor, 39; Christopher Walken, 67; Shirley Jones, 76

Happy Birthday: Partnerships and personal matters will raise issues about your future. A creative approach to whatever you face will lead you in directions you never thought possible. You will be able to make decisions that are based on what you want and need instead of what everyone else wants. Treat each opportunity with an open mind. Your numbers are 5, 7, 10, 24, 27, 33, 36

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You cannot let anyone's negativity or pushy nature slow you down. Let your intentions be known and your determination seen. The more active you are, the more attention you will attract and help you will receive. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you aren't happy with the way things are going, pick up some new skills or start sending your resume to companies that will appreciate what you have to offer. Don't follow the crowd; do what works best for you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Attending an event, taking a trip or surfing the Internet will lead to knowledge and clearer vision concerning your future and what you want to do. Social events and romance are favored and can enhance your relationship or lead to a new one. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get back to the simpler things in life. An opportunity to make a change does look positive but only if you can make it work personally as well as professionally. Consider the effects of any change you make. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are clear about what you want and how you are going to get it. Make your move with strength and courage and you won't need to explain yourself. Don't worry about emotional issues going on at home until you finish formulating your plan and make it happen. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Conversations with people who have experienced what you are trying to do will lead to good advice. Take a look at what you are up against so you will be ready for whatever competition you face. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Gracious action will bring good results. If you handle people with dignity, you will be well received. Your integrity and patience will pay off when it comes to money matters. You will be noticed by someone who can alter your future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Go after your dreams. An interesting turn of events will unfold. Use a little intrigue coupled with your magnetic charm to capture the attention of someone who can orchestrate positive transformations. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You cannot let anyone meddle in your affairs or stand in the way of your progress. A change at home may be unexpected but, in the end, you will benefit. Look out for your own interests. Don't let love lead to loss. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may want to sit back and smell the roses instead of getting involved in situations that will cause anxiety. Don't take on more than you can handle for someone else's benefit. Put yourself first and get some rest. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do something to enhance your appearance and you will raise your status and the potential to increase your bank account. Take care of emotional issues quickly and a love connection will take a serious turn. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your unpredictable nature will cause some uncertainty when it comes to partnerships, business and the options you have in the future. Expect to be cornered by someone who wants you to make a commitment you aren't ready to take. Say no and move along. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and creative. You have a unique way of doing things. You are competitive and have charm, confidence and insight.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	8				7	6	
3			7		4			5
			3					2
			9					1
			2					7
		6					5	
	5					2		
8					3			
2	6	3	1		5	8	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	7	8	5	6	4	9	2
4	5	9	1	2	3	8	6	7
6	8	2	7	9	4	3	1	5
9	1	5	6	7	8	2	4	3
8	6	4	2	3	1	7	5	9
7	2	3	9	4	5	1	8	6
5	7	8	3	1	9	6	2	4
3	4	6	5	8	2	9	7	1
2	9	1	4	6	7	5	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/30

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARK TO MARKET LAWS **Solution: 10 letters**

R	S	G	S	E	V	I	T	A	V	I	R	E	D	P
C	E	E	O	T	E	S	A	H	C	R	U	P	R	R
O	L	Q	C	V	A	S	U	P	P	L	Y	O	A	E
N	P	A	U	U	E	T	R	A	D	E	G	L	O	C
T	I	E	R	I	R	R	E	C	O	R	D	I	B	I
R	C	T	G	I	R	I	N	M	A	F	A	C	I	S
A	N	A	N	G	T	E	T	M	E	S	C	Y	N	I
C	I	M	I	E	N	Y	M	I	E	N	S	W	V	O
T	R	I	T	N	S	I	L	E	E	N	T	E	E	N
S	P	T	N	K	S	E	T	Y	N	S	T	I	S	A
Q	C	S	U	V	R	U	R	R	T	T	Ⓑ	V	T	S
U	O	E	O	U	A	A	R	P	O	Ⓘ	S	E	O	S
O	N	T	C	I	N	L	M	E	Ⓛ	P	U	R	R	E
T	S	O	C	E	T	A	U	Ⓛ	A	V	E	Q	G	T
E	D	N	A	M	E	D	M	E	A	S	U	R	E	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/31

Assess, Assets, Bill, Board, Clarity, Contracts, Cost, Counting, Demand, Derivatives, Equity, Estimate, Evaluate, Government, Insure, Investor, Mark, Measures, Policy, Precision, Present, Principles, Program, Purchase, Quote, Record, Relief, Reporting, Requirements, Review, Securities, Statement, Supply, Trade, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Antarctica

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order. $1 pbh for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Autumn leaves

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For $210.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

ISLAND KAYAK
WHERE AMAZING BEGINS
KAYAK RENTAL
$15 – FULL DAY
$9 – HALF DAY
—CONDITION TO APPLY—
LOCATION:
BEACH ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU,
NEXT TO STAR WATER
PHONE: 287-0508/235-0508

FOR SALE
CONSTRUCTION CO.
& RESTAURANT
GOOD RECORD
Please call 483-1123

EMPLOYMENT

For Immediate Hire: Baby sitter
Must love kids at least 18 yrs old
Call 285-1127. English speaking

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

LOST PASSPORT

Name : LANLAN WANG (female)
Passport # : G03444640
Date of Birth : March 3, 1983
Identity Card No. : 342423830303206
REWARD will be given.
Please call 287-9288 or 234-6688

MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, GU 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
hope strength joy!
Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY

J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc., is currently seeking
for qualified candidates to fill the following position

SUPERVISOR

Please apply in person at the
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe
Monday to Friday, 8a.m. - 5p.m.

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

Russian Speaking Staff

We are seeking fluent Russian speaking staff (verbal and written) for positions in Reservations and Front Desk. Previous experience in a similar role an advantage, outstanding customer service skills a prerequisite, must be able to communicate in English as well as Russian. These positions involve working shift work, night shift, weekends and holidays. PIC applications are available at our security desk. Applications must be received by Friday, April 9, 2010.

www.saipantribune.com

Sports
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
Angamwas rules 4-person
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SPRING
SUMMER
AU
WINTER

© 2010 WHATZIT? www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

Nets get 10th win, avoid share of worst mark

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New Jersey Nets notched their 10th victory Monday night, avoiding any chance of tying for the worst record in NBA history by beating the short-handed San Antonio Spurs 90-84.

Brook Lopez had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who grabbed control with a 15-4 run late in the fourth quarter to improve to 10-64. The 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, who went 9-73, will remain in the record books as the league's worst team.

Public address announcer Gary Sussman shouted "We got 10! The Nets win!" after New Jersey snapped a 14-game losing streak in the series, committing a franchise record-low four turnovers in beating San Antonio for the first time since the 2003 NBA finals.

With Manu Ginobili (lower back spasms) joining Tony Parker on the injured list and Tim Duncan struggling through a poor shooting game, the Spurs had few answers on the second night of a back-to-back following an impressive victory at Boston on Sunday.

George Hill scored 19 points and former Net Richard Jefferson finished with 16 after a strong start for the Spurs, who fell out of a sixth-place tie in the Western Conference with Oklahoma City and Portland.

New Jersey has been in danger of the worst record ever since opening the season with an NBA-record, 18-game losing streak. But the Nets have now won three of four, taking the pressure off the remainder of their schedule.

They were helped Monday when Ginobili, the reigning Western Conference player of the week, had such trouble with his back that he had trouble putting his pants on in the morning. Then reserve Roger Mason Jr. was forced to sit out the second half with a sprained right pinky knuckle.

AP

New Jersey Nets' Brook Lopez (11) celebrates with Courtney Lee during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs Monday, March 29, 2010 in East Rutherford, N.J.

Duncan finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds but missed eight of his first 12 shots before finishing 6 of 15 from the field.

Courtney Lee scored 19 points and Devin Harris had 17 points and nine assists for the Nets. Terrence Williams had 11 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter.

The Nets tied it at 72 on Williams' 3-pointer with 8:13 remaining, but Hill scored before setting up Matt Bonner's 3 for a 77-72 lead with 6:12 left. New Jersey answered with eight in a row to regain the lead, and after a rare basket by Duncan, Lopez slammed down Harris' alley-oop pass for an 82-79 edge with 3:27 to play.

A free throw by Lopez and a basket by Williams pushed it to 85-79, but San Antonio was back within three after Bonner's 3-pointer with 34 seconds left. The Spurs got the ball back after Harris' miss, but Duncan threw away a pass and the Nets closed it out from the foul line.

This appeared to be a tough week for New Jersey to get win No. 10, with San Antonio, Phoenix and New Orleans all coming to the Izod Center. But the Spurs who showed up Monday hardly looked like the team that was coming off victories over Cleveland and Boston.

Jefferson scored 10 points in the first quarter, when the Spurs shot 54 percent and opened a 33-27 lead. It was ugly from there, as the teams combined for 29 points with neither shooting above 35 percent in the second before San Antonio took a 46-43 lead into halftime.

Hill and DeJuan Blair each scored eight in the third—the rest of the Spurs managed only four—and San Antonio was up four heading to the final period.

Mavericks 109, Nuggets 93

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double as Dallas maintained the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference.

Shawn Marion added 21 points and Jason Terry contributed 15 for Dallas, which increased its conference lead over Denver to 1 1-2 games.

J.R. Smith scored 27 points and Nene had 14 for the Nuggets, who lost their fifth in six games. Carmelo Anthony went 3 for 16 from the floor and had 10 points, 18.9 below his average.

Hornets 108, Lakers 100

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 15 points and 13 assists, his first double-double since returning from a knee injury, and David West scored 20 points for New Orleans.

Marcus Thornton added 18 points, including three 3-pointers, and fellow rookie Darren Collison had 17 points for the Hornets.

Kobe Bryant had 31 points and Pau Gasol added 26 points and 22 rebounds for the Lakers, who fell behind by as much as 17 points in the fourth.

Jazz 103, Knicks 98

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 26 points and 14 rebounds, and Deron Williams added 23 points and 14 assists as Utah took over first place in the Northwest Division.

Paul Millsap also had a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who are now one game ahead of Denver in the division and within a half-game of Dallas for the No. 2 spot in the West.

Al Harrington led New York with 26 points and 17 rebounds.

Raptors 103, Bobcats 101

At Charlotte, Chris Bosh had 22 points and 11 rebounds, while Hedo Turkoglu hit the go-ahead 3-pointer a day after getting benched as Toronto got a key win in the playoff chase.

The Raptors (36-37) entered having lost three straight and 13 of 17, but snapped Charlotte's three-game winning streak to stay in eighth place in the East, a game ahead of Chicago.

Raymond Felton and Stephen Jackson each scored 18 points, and Gerald Wallace added 17 for the Bobcats.

Duke favored to win NCAA title; Mich. St. underdog

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Duke is the favorite among the Final Four to win the NCAA title, while Michigan State is a longshot despite its trip to the finals last year, oddsmakers in Las Vegas said Monday.

Las Vegas Sports Consultants made Duke a 7-5 favorite to win the title and a 2.5-point favorite to beat West Virginia in the semifinals on Saturday night, oddsmaker Kenny White said.

"They've probably had the easiest run," White said of the Blue Devils (33-5), who beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff, California and Purdue before beating Baylor 78-71 on Sunday to reach the Final Four.

White said either Duke or West Virginia would likely be favored over Butler or Michigan State in the finals.

The Las Vegas-based firm that recommends betting lines to 90 percent of sports books in Nevada said Butler had a 5-2 chance of winning the title and put West Virginia's chances at 2-1 and Michigan State's at 17-5.

The firm said Butler is favored by 1.5 points in its game against Michigan State.

AP

Members of the Duke basketball team hold up the championship trophy after they defeated Baylor 78-71 in the NCAA South Regional college basketball final in Houston, Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Michigan State (28-8) has reached the Final Four six of the past 12 years, but was expected to be an underdog with the Bulldogs playing near their home court in Indianapolis. Butler is listed as the host school for the Final Four.

"(The Spartans) were there last year—that's quite an advantage—but they are matched up on the road basically playing in Indianapolis," White said. "They'll be the underdog in both games."

The Las Vegas Hilton, which listed Duke as a 6-5 favorite and Michigan State as an 11-2 underdog, saw bettors flocking to Butler at 7-2 odds to win the title, said Chris Graham, race and sports coordinator.

"Butler's definitely the Cinderella," Graham said.

White said that despite the odds, the Final Four teams were not very far apart, with the widest spread for the finals expected at 4.5 or 5 points if Duke plays Michigan State.

"Anything could happen here, believe me," White said.

Obama to throw out ceremonial 1st pitch

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama will throw out the ceremonial first ball at the Washington Nationals' opener, marking the 100th anniversary of a presidential pitch to start the season.

William Howard Taft first did it on April 14, 1910. This will be the 48th time a president has made an opening-day pitch in the nation's capital.

The Nationals open at home on April 5 against the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I am proud that President Obama will continue the long presidential tradition of throwing out the first pitch of opening day in Washington, D.C.," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

Obama will have an experienced target, too: When he played in Texas, new Nationals catcher Ivan Rodriguez, a 14-time All-Star, twice caught ceremonial pitches from President George W. Bush, a former Rangers owner.

Rodriguez is looking forward to this occasion.

"He's a great guy, a great president, a sports fan," Rodriguez said. "It's going to be a great day."

This will be the first time President Obama attends a game at Nationals Park.

Pitcher John Lannan will be starting the game for the Nationals and worried he could be warming up in the bullpen right when the Commander in Chief is touring the home clubhouse.

"We were hoping he'd do it last year. The timing's right," Lannan said. "You have some perks when you're living in D.C."

Obama threw out the first pitch at last year's All-Star game in St. Louis, wearing a White Sox jacket. Noting that the Nationals host the White Sox this season for a three-game series June 18-20, Washington manager Jim Riggleman joked, "He's going to be answering some tough questions about whether he's a Nationals fan or a White Sox fan."

Els hangs on with clutch putts to win at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Ernie Els made two clutch par putts, escaped trouble from a buried lie in the bunker and wound up wearing a blue blazer Monday for winning the rain-delayed Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Suddenly, it's easy to picture him in a different color jacket two weeks from now.

Els overcame a few nervous moments with four solid pars to wrap up a 1-under 71 and win by two shots at Bay Hill, giving him back-to-back victories for the first time in seven years and setting himself up as a favorite at Augusta National.

"I'd like to put this jacket in some dye," Els said at the trophy presentation. "Some green dye."

Coming off a four-shot victory in the World Golf Championship at Doral two weeks ago, Els had to work harder than he should have for his 18th career victory on the PGA Tour.

He had a five-shot lead Sunday afternoon with six holes remaining until hitting into the water on No. 13 for a double bogey and hitting into the sand on the next hole for a bogey. Then came the thunderstorms, halting the final round until it resumed at noon Monday.

Els immediately felt pressure as he stood over a 6-foot par putt, but he made it.

With his lead down to one shot over Kevin Na, his 4-iron came up short of the 17th green and plugged into the face of the bunker. Els blasted out to 6 feet and made that one for par.

"The whole thing changed from being very comfortable to being just as tense as I've been for a long time," Els said. "So it was a hard struggle today. If I can say it, I really earned this one."

He finished at 11-under 277 and moved to No. 7 in the world rankings. Els earned $1.08 million, giving him more than $3 million for the year and putting him atop the PGA Tour money list.

Na missed an 18-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole for a share of the lead, then drove into the right rough and had to lay up short of the water. He hit a wedge within 8 feet and missed the putt, giving Els some breathing room.

Na closed with a 69 and shared second with Edoardo Molinari of Italy, who also had a 69.

Els blasted out of the buried lie in the bunker on the 17th and was knocking the sand from his spikes when he saw that Na, in the group ahead of him, had driven into the right rough. When he reached the 18th tee, Els could hear the groan from the gallery around the green and realized Na had made bogey.

"Even Tiger Woods couldn't have gotten over the water," Na said, referring to his decision to lay up. "With the lie as wet as it is, there's absolutely no chance."

Facing a difficult tee shot on the 18th to secure the victory, Els pretended to be at the Masters.

"It's always in my head this time of the year," he said. "You try and downplay it, but you do think about it. Today, I thought about it on the 72nd hole. I was like, 'OK, you're standing at Augusta and you've got to hit this hard fade.'"

And he nailed it.

Playing cautiously away from the water, he pulled his approach into the rough near a bunker, chipped to 8 feet and holed the par putt.

It was his second victory at Bay Hill, the other coming 11 years ago in a 36-hole Sunday because of rain. Els became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2001 to win twice on the Florida Swing. Woods won at Bay Hill and The Players Championship, then made it three in a row when he captured the Masters.

Els has had nothing but heartache at Augusta National.

"I know the history of Augusta pretty well, and there's been a lot of nice stories," Els said. "There's been a lot of cruel ones—thinking of (Tom) Weiskopf and (Greg) Norman and myself—but there's also been some really great ones. So we still are hoping for the great one."

Els planned to fly up to Augusta on Tuesday for a practice round before playing in the Houston Open.

"I think he's going to be tough at Augusta," Palmer said after greeting Els behind the 18th green.

Retief Goosen (69) and Chris Couch (71) tied for fourth. Ben Curtis, who started the final round one shot out of the lead, closed with a 74 and finished alone in sixth.

"It's great to see Ernie playing well again," Goosen said. "He's really settled in after moving to America now. His game has seemed to really come around."

Els had gone two years without winning—the longest drought of his career—and now has consecutive wins for the first time since he won the Heineken Classic and Johnnie Walker Classic in Australia early in the 2003 season. Earlier that year, he won the PGA Tour's first two events in Hawaii.

"I want to make this a special year, especially after these two wins," Els said. "But I still have a lot of work left, and there are a lot of majors left. And that's going to be fun now."

AP

Ernie Els, left, of South Africa, holds up the first place trophy with Arnold Palmer after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., Monday, March 29, 2010.

QB Bradford shows off arm with near perfection

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—After a record-setting college career that landed him a Heisman Trophy, one giant question loomed over Sam Bradford's prospects of becoming the No. 1 overall pick in next month's NFL draft.

How would the quarterback's throwing arm respond to surgery that cost him most of his final season at Oklahoma?

Bradford provided a convincing case Monday that he's well down the road to recovery, completing all but one of his five dozen passes during a workout on his college campus.

"Really positive. I thought the whole workout was positive," said St. Louis Rams general manager Billy Devaney, who has the No. 1 pick in the draft that starts April 22. "I think he answered a lot of questions for a lot of people today."

Bradford's first public throwing exhibition since his surgery featured an assortment of passes ranging from a swing pass to a running back to patterns forcing him to throw to the sidelines and even a post pattern that went more than 50 yards in the air.

Bradford went 13 for 13 during a warmup session and then missed only one of 50 passes in the workout that followed±a slant pattern that was slightly behind Adron Tennell but still hit him in the hands.

"I thought I did very well today," Bradford said. "I showed a wide variety of throws. I didn't just come out and show the basic things, I showed some in the gun, on the move and different throws. I think I showed everyone that I can still make all the throws and my shoulder is just what is was before I got hurt."

Among those there to watch were Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, Cleveland Browns president Mike Holmgren and San Francisco 49ers coach Mike Singletary. The Seahawks control the sixth and 14th picks, Cleveland picks seventh and the 49ers have the 13th and 16th selections.

"He hit every ball, he was dead on it and looked great. This is what you'd hope happens and he did a beautiful job," Carroll said.

Bradford won the Heisman Trophy in 2008 after throwing for 4,720 yards and 50 touchdowns with only eight interceptions while leading the Sooners to the BCS championship game. No player in NCAA history has thrown more than Bradford's 86 touchdown passes through his freshman and sophomore seasons.

But after deciding to return for another shot at a national title, Bradford's junior year was cut short. He sprained his right shoulder just before halftime in Oklahoma's season opener against BYU, then returned to play one full game before getting hurt again against Texas.

He had season-ending surgery in late October and declared for the draft, with experts tabbing him as a possible No. 1 pick even though he opted not to throw at the NFL combine or at Oklahoma's regular pro day in order to give the arm more time to heal.

"He lived up to it. He did what he needed to do today. It's a big day for Sam, too, after all of the time off," Carroll said. "He came through in the kind of manner you would expect a big-timer to come through."

Bradford said he had breakfast with Spagnuolo and the Rams' offensive coaching staff before his workout. Devaney also said the Rams plan to have a private workout with Bradford.

"It's another piece," Devaney said of the Rams' evaluation of Bradford. "It's an important piece but it's a piece."

Bradford said every player dreams of being picked first in the draft, but he hasn't given it much thought. And he said it would be up to the Rams whether he'd sign a deal before draft day, should they decide to draft him at No. 1.

"I don't control that. I have no clue how it's going to play out," Bradford said. "If that's how it works, then that's how it works. If not, I'll be excited to hear my name called on draft day."

Bradford admitted being nervous before the throwing session, in part because it was an unusual situation to have one receiver running a pattern at a time with no defense.

"At the end of the day, it's still just a workout," Bradford said. "I'm not going to go to the NFL and throw routes on air to guys. I'm going to have to play against a very good defense week in and week out."

After Bradford was finished, former teammate Gerald McCoy—a longtime friend who's also in the mix to become the No. 1 overall pick—came rushing over from the sideline to give him a hug.

"I knew he was going to be at his best," McCoy said. "Sam is the best, man. He's a beast. That's why I call him King Sam."

Roethlisberger doesn't show for offseason work

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, accused of assaulting a female college student in Georgia, did not report to the team's offseason workouts.

Team spokesman Dave Lockett said Roethlisberger will not work out with his teammates this week. Some, but not all, of the Steelers' most experienced players began the conditioning and weightlifting program on Monday. Less-experienced players began working out two weeks ago.

The Steelers do not start on-field practicing until April 19, when most players are expected to be on hand.

The team apparently believes it would be a distraction for Roethlisberger to be working out at this time. An investigation into the Georgia case is ongoing.

Nolan Cultura tops Mother's Day qualifier

Nolan Cultura didn't lose a game Sunday in claiming the second qualifying spot in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day tournament.

Winners of free Thursday and Sunday qualifying tournaments earn spots in the May 9 final to compete for the $100 first place prize, with $50 for second place, trophies from Pacific Amusement, and in-house prizes.

Cultura and Thursday winner Larry Briones will face off before this Thursday's qualifier with the winner earning a USSP T-shirt.

Cultura started strong by running the table on Bernard Kileleman, then scuffled and fought to wins over Patrick Taitano and Mei Rengiil. Rengiil had defeated husband Rick and Chester Cuento to reach the winner's bracket final.

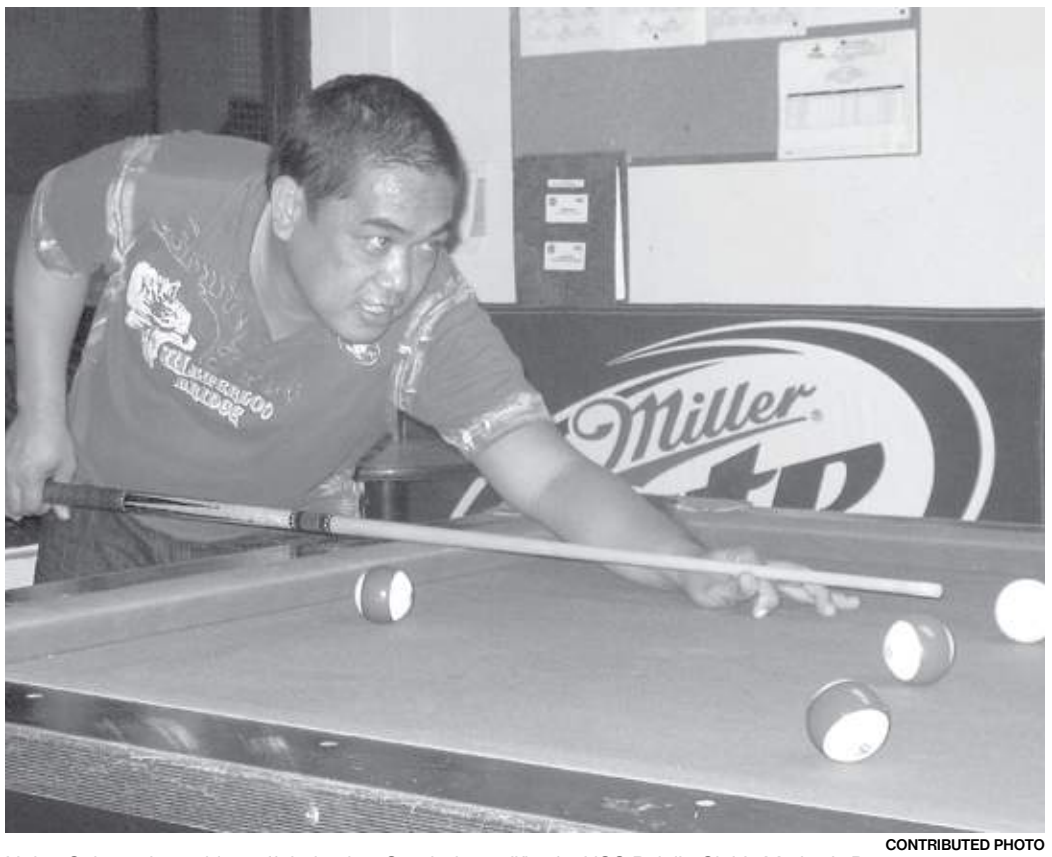
Mark Butac came back by eliminating Rick Rengiil but again couldn't get past Cuento. Cuento defeated Taitano, Kileleman, and Butac before falling to Mei Rengiil in the loser's bracket final.

Cultura beat Mei Rengiil a second time to win the match.

Sign-up for the Thursday and Sunday tournaments begins at 7:30pm. There is no entry fee. The matches are double elimination, following Billiard Congress of America rules.

The 13 winners of qualifying tournaments will be joined by the three second and third place winners with the most points. To date, Taylor Watanabe, and Mei Rengiil lead, with Cuento and Erina Olkeriil tied for the third spot.

For more information, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nolan Cultura shows his stuff during last Sunday's qualifier for USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day tournament.

HEO

From Page 28

over Clay McCullough-Stearns and Tomy Choi in the other semis game, 6-0, 6-0. The Goodwins advanced to the semis after defeating Jesse Peredo and Darrel Roligat, 6-1, 6-4.

In the women's 3.0 singles finals, Eda and Imai outclassed Amy Arenovski and Menellia Castro, 6-0, 6-2. The Japanese pair gained the first finals seat after winning over the mother-and-daughter pair of Flor and Emily Jones, 6-0, 6-0. Arenovski and Castro moved into the finals after a 6-4, 6-1 triumph against another mother-and-daughter tandem, Adele and Merle Hudkins.

The women's open doubles also drew four pairs with longtime partner Minor and Santos foiling the upset bid of Mikayla Lopez and Lee Eun Kyoung in the finals, 6-0, 6-3. Lee and Lopez nailed a finals entry after beating Lydia Tan and Jodel Fernandez in the semis, 6-3, 6-3. In the other semis duel, Minor and Santos won over mother and daughter Sally and Vivian Lee, 6-4, 0-6, 6-1.

SASAMOTO

From Page 28

"The defending champions are ready to bring home the gold medals again and are very proud and anxious to represent the CNMI," said MASC in a statement.

Aside from the CNMI, other Micronesian island-nations expected to participate in the seventh staging of the quadrennial meet are Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

They will compete in 15 disciplines, namely baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, fast-pitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, wrestling, and of course spearfishing. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MOBIL

From Page 28

moved up from the middle of the pack to solo third place in the team standings with its 7-3 record.

Also improving its record was TBK Auto Shop, which now has a 6-3 slate for fourth place in the 15-team field after clobbering Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 107-81.

Fiesta absorbed its third straight loss, while Cellular Pro has a worse record with its 0-9 slate.

Fiesta was never given a chance to take control of the match, as TBK led by double digits early, 25-12. Jun Pantaleon anchored TBK's good start, knocking two triples and scoring 10 points.

In the second quarter, it was Kae Bernardo's turn to carry the cudgels for TBK, as he fired 11 markers to up the lead to 18 at the break, 53-31.

Fiesta failed to work its way back into the game in the second half with its limited options on offense, which was focused on Esdrelon. Others tried to step up, but Edel Carino and John March Jong could not get baskets in streaks.

TBK continued to draw big games from Pantaleon and Bernardo and also got a big contribution from Mark Castro in the second half to notch its fourth win in a row. Castro tallied 13 of his 21 markers in the second half. Pantaleon and Bernardo led the team with 25 points each.

In the first game, Jun Estolas top-scored for Mobil with 20 points. His four free throws and Brian Ajoste's baskets foiled Cellular Pro's repeated comeback bids.

Three other Mobil players scored in double figures with playing coach Marvin Deocares chipping in 12 and J.P. Jose and Ajoste adding 11 apiece.

Mobil led from start to finish, denying Cell Pro's attempt to break into the win column.

Maverick Rotap paced Cell Pro with 25 points, while Roy Hernandez contributed 20.

First Game

Mobil 81 – Estolas 20, Deocares 12, Jose 11, Ajoste 11, Ruluked 9, Galzote 5, Torres 7, Wenceslao 4, Demapan 2.

Cell Pro 77 – Rotap 25, Hernandez 20, E. Dulfo 14, Villanueva 8, G. Loste 6, Manuel 2, Guevarra 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 37-31, 62-52, 81-77.

Second Game

TBK 107 – Bernardo 25, Pantaleon 25, Castro 21, Capalad 9, Demapan 9, Sevilla 6, De Vero 4, Tibayan 4, Mallari 2, Pangelinan 2.

Fiesta 81 – Esdrelon 28, Carino 18, Ong 16, De la Torre 9, Valdez 4, Moran 4, Galag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 53-31, 72-59, 107-81.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	47	26	.644	—
Toronto	36	37	.493	11
New York	26	47	.356	21
Philadelphia	26	47	.356	21
New Jersey	10	64	.135	37 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	52	22	.703	—
x-Atlanta	47	26	.644	4 1/2
Miami	40	34	.541	12
Charlotte	38	35	.521	13 1/2
Washington	21	51	.292	30

Central Division

y-Cleveland	58	16	.784	—
Milwaukee	40	32	.556	17
Chicago	35	38	.479	22 1/2
Indiana	27	47	.365	31
Detroit	23	50	.315	34 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-Dallas	49	25	.662	—
San Antonio	44	29	.603	4 1/2
Memphis	38	35	.521	10 1/2
Houston	36	36	.500	12
New Orleans	35	40	.467	14 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Utah	49	26	.653	—
x-Denver	48	27	.640	1
Oklahoma City	44	28	.611	3 1/2
Portland	45	29	.608	3 1/2
Minnesota	14	60	.189	34 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	54	20	.730	—
Phoenix	47	26	.644	6 1/2
L.A. Clippers	27	46	.370	26 1/2
Sacramento	24	50	.324	30
Golden State	21	52	.288	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 103, Charlotte 101
New Jersey 90, San Antonio 84
New Orleans 108, L.A. Lakers 100
Dallas 109, Denver 93
Utah 103, New York 98

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	72	731	557	2147	29.8
Durant, OKC	72	691	646	2132	29.6
Anthony, DEN	62	623	472	1770	28.5
Bryant, LAL	69	683	417	1875	27.2
Wade, MIA	70	649	484	1850	26.4
Ellis, GOL	61	603	280	1556	25.5
Nowitzki, DAL	73	643	474	1800	24.7
Granger, IND	54	424	308	1295	24.0
Bosh, TOR	66	568	428	1572	23.8
Stoudemire, PHX	73	616	442	1675	22.9
Roy, POR	59	458	320	1306	22.1
Johnson, ATL	71	593	211	1512	21.3
Randolph, MEM	72	593	309	1508	20.9
Jackson, CHA	73	548	312	1522	20.8
Evans, SAC	64	473	318	1296	20.3
Rose, CHI	69	584	213	1393	20.2
Lee, NYK	72	602	239	1443	20.0
Maggette, GOL	63	416	414	1257	20.0
Gay, MEM	71	539	266	1407	19.8
Brooks, HOU	72	507	224	1419	19.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	461	759	.607
Perkins, BOS	289	479	.603
Hilario, DEN	393	662	.594
Gasol, MEM	377	646	.584
Bynum, LAL	392	688	.570
Horford, ATL	426	759	.561
Boozer, UTA	568	1018	.558
Stoudemire, PHX	616	1109	.555
Lee, NYK	602	1096	.549
Millsap, UTA	348	638	.545

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	74	262	724	986	13.3
Randolph, MEM	72	299	552	851	11.8
Lee, NYK	72	203	647	850	11.8
Camby, POR	67	228	553	781	11.7
Boozer, UTA	72	163	640	803	11.2
Bosh, TOR	66	193	529	722	10.9
Wallace, CHA	68	137	571	708	10.4
Bogut, MIL	65	197	468	665	10.2
Duncan, SAN	70	206	510	716	10.2
Murphy, IND	64	106	546	652	10.2

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	72	800	11.1
Paul, NOR	42	457	10.9
Williams, UTA	69	723	10.5
Rondo, BOS	72	703	9.8
Kidd, DAL	72	665	9.2
James, CLE	72	616	8.6
Davis, LAC	71	564	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	72	567	7.9
Harris, NJN	56	387	6.9
Wade, MIA	70	468	6.7

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL SCORES

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) – Final scores Monday at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, a $6 million PGA Tour tournament played at the par-72, 7,353-yard Bay Hill Club & Lodge course:

FINAL ROUND

Ernie Els	68-69-69-71 –277
Edoardo Molinari	70-70-70-69 –279
Kevin Na	68-70-72-69 –279
Retief Goosen	71-67-73-69 –280
Chris Couch	70-70-69-71 –280
Ben Curtis	70-67-70-74 –281
J.P. Hayes	70-72-70-70 –282
D.J. Trahan	69-68-75-70 –282
Ryuji Imada	73-70-69-70 –282
Kevin Streelman	68-75-68-71 –282
Steve Marino	70-70-72-72 –284
Derek Lamely	71-70-70-73 –284
Jim Furyk	71-74-66-73 –284
Bo Van Pelt	72-70-73-70 –285
Robert Allenby	68-73-72-72 –285
Davis Love III	66-71-74-74 –285
D.A. Points	73-72-72-69 –286
Briny Baird	72-72-70-72 –286
K.J. Choi	71-69-73-73 –286
Bill Haas	72-71-70-73 –286
Charles Howell III	72-72-71-72 –287
Sean O'Hair	70-73-71-73 –287
J.B. Holmes	66-74-77-70 –287
Brian Davis	74-71-73-70 –288
John Senden	71-74-70-74 –289
Ben Crane	69-74-73-73 –289
Jason Day	71-70-73-75 –289
Hunter Mahan	71-73-75-70 –289
Boo Weekley	70-73-68-78 –289
Stephen Ames	73-71-71-75 –290
Erik Compton	72-71-73-74 –290
Scott Verplank	75-70-70-75 –290
Jerry Kelly	71-74-72-73 –290
Brandt Snedeker	72-72-70-76 –290
Phil Mickelson	71-67-75-77 –290
Stuart Appleby	70-74-70-76 –290
Rory Sabbatini	75-70-74-71 –290
Tim Petrovic	74-68-71-77 –290
Tim Clark	74-70-75-71 –290
Rod Pampling	74-70-71-76 –291
Marc Leishman	70-73-72-76 –291
Ryo Ishikawa	74-70-71-76 –291
Nathan Green	69-73-72-77 –291
Pat Perez	69-74-74-74 –291
Mike Weir	67-73-77-74 –291
George McNeill	69-71-73-78 –291
Ryan Moore	72-72-74-73 –291
Dustin Johnson	71-70-72-78 –291
Bryce Molder	74-70-75-72 –291
Rickie Fowler	73-72-74-73 –292
Sam Saunders	73-70-77-72 –292
Henrik Stenson	67-78-71-77 –293
Kris Blanks	74-69-73-77 –293
Charl Schwartzel	74-71-72-76 –293
Colin Montgomerie	72-71-71-79 –293
Matt Every	74-70-70-79 –293
Steve Stricker	69-71-79-74 –293
Tim Herron	73-72-76-72 –293
Stewart Cink	73-72-71-78 –294
Carl Pettersson	71-73-73-77 –294
Kevin Sutherland	70-73-76-75 –294
Chris DiMarco	69-73-75-78 –295
Joe Ogilvie	76-66-79-74 –295
Jonathan Byrd	71-73-73-79 –296
Nick Watney	74-71-73-78 –296
Jason Dufner	69-72-73-83 –297
Daniel Chopra	74-71-70-82 –297
Heath Slocum	69-72-76-80 –297
Paul Goydos	70-72-82-73 –297
Ricky Barnes	72-71-82-72 –297
Trevor Immelman	71-74-76-77 –298
Skip Kendall	73-71-77-77 –298
Garrett Willis	72-73-80-74 –299
Martin Laird	74-71-78-77 –300
Josh Teater	72-71-79-80 –302

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	7	1
World Resort	7	2
Aqua Resort	7	2
Mobil	7	3
TBK	6	3
Pacific Islands Club	5	3
Fiesta Resort	5	4
Shirley's	4	4
AON/NJ Plus	4	3
Bank of Guam	3	4
McGraw-Hill	3	4
Pepsi	2	4
Docomo/SGH	0	7
Hard Rock	0	7
Cell Pro	0	9

SML STANDINGS

Rangers	4	0
Brewers	2	2
Fielders	2	2
Falcons	2	2
D'9ers	0	4

BATTING

Name	Team	AB	H	Ave
Robert Bansil	Falcons	9	6	0.667
Justin Reyes	Fielders	16	7	0.438
Clifton Silil	Rangers	11	5	0.455
Manny Sablan	Brewers	12	5	0.417
Eric Tenorio	D'9ers	15	6	0.400
Mike Pangelinan	Falcons	10	4	0.400
JR Suel	Falcons	10	4	0.400
Juan Iguel	Rangers	13	5	0.385
Juan Maratita	Fielders	17	6	0.353
John Acosta	D'9ers	16	5	0.313
Nunu Kapileo	Falcons	16	5	0.313

Triples

Chris Camacho	D'9ers	2
Juan Maratita	Fielders	1

Doubles

Eric Tenorio	D'9ers	2
Tako Camacho	Falcons	2
Robert Bansil	Falcons	2
Mabel Ngirengmelas	Brewers	2

Runs

Robert Bansil	Falcons	6
Justin Reyes	Fielders	6
John Reyes	Fielders	6
Tako Camacho	Falcons	5
John Acosta	Brewers	5

RBIs

Robert Bansil	Falcons	4
Mike Pangelinan	Falcons	4
Dave Camacho	Rangers	4

PITCHING

Name	Team	Inn.	ER	ERA
Franco Flores	Rangers	8	0	0.00
Elton Santos	Rangers	7.2	0	0.00
Kelvin Kapileo	Rangers	7	0	0.00
Vincent Cepeda	Brewers	13	1	0.69
Ed Santos	Brewers	11	1	0.81

Strikeouts

Shane Mendiola	Fielders	19
Thomas Joab	Falcons	17
Vincent Cepeda	Brewers	14
Franco Flores	Rangers	9

2010 Tagaman Triathlon/Taga Kids

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan's Matthew Mancao, left, and Tinian's Joshua Manglona took the Top 2 place in the 24-and-under age group division of the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

The Japanese triplets, Tatsuya Morita, Yoshiya Morita, and Mayu Morita pose with Taga. Inc. president Wolf Mojica during the awards ceremony for Taga Kids.

Taga Kids 8 to 10 age group winners, Kaisei Toda, Logan Mister, and Luther Lizama receive their prizes from Taga. Inc. president Wolf Mojica.

Butch Sublemente, left, who topped the 30 to 34 age group, joins runner-up Chang Hee Lee and third placer Young Jin Kim at the awards ceremony.

The Top 6 finishers in the women's pro division get to wear a mwar during the awards ceremony.

Saipan's Tyce Mister, right, celebrates with 40 to 44 age group fellow winners Kang Sub Song and Won Seok Jang.

45 to 49 age group champion Kieran Daly, center, poses with runners-up Hosan Baek, left, and Hyung Ho Choi.

Women's relay champions, from left, Grace Kimball, Mamiko Berger, and Kimiko Hasegawa are all smiles after receiving their prizes.

The Top 6 finishers in the men's pro pose for a group photo.

The men's relay champions, from left, swimmer Kai Staal, biker Rene Calage, and runner Chang Wang Jang.

Nets get 10th win, avoid share of worst mark

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Heo, Schuler lead doubles winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There was a partners switch in the men's open doubles division of the 10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships with the duo of Ji Hoon Heo and Kirk Schuler benefiting from the exchange.

Heo and Schuler dueled the tandem of Jeff Race and Peter Loyola in the finals and won on Sunday at the PIC hard court, 6-4, 6-4.

Three months ago during the Tan Holdings Classic, Heo was paired with mentor Race, while Loyola teamed up with Schuler. Loyola and Schuler also joined forces in last year's PIC netfest and were runners-up to Guam's Torgun Smith and Lency Tenai.

The partners switch is part of the training of Heo, Race, and Loyola, who are vying for slots on the CNMI Team that will compete in this year's Micronesian Games in Palau.

Meanwhile, other doubles winners in the PIC netfest were the teams of Eli Buenaventura and Roy Pangelinan, Jake Lee and Daniel Park, Sakiko Eda and Kasumi Imai, and Thea Minor and Cleofe Santos.

Buenaventura and Pangelinan ruled the men's 4.0 doubles, besting three other pairs. They dueled Gyu Moon Heo and Cheoul Lee Jong in the finals and won in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1.

Gyu Moon Heo and Jong claimed the first finals seat after beating Reo Arriola and Fernando Cajigan in the semifinals, 6-3, 6-4. In the other semis pairing, Pangelinan and Buenaventura also needed only two sets to advance to the finals after downing Gary Ramsey and Richard Brostrom, 6-4, 6-1.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, left, and Kirk Schuler, are shown here during their title match in a tournament at PIC last year. Last weekend, they teamed up and beat Jeff Race and Peter Loyola in the men's open doubles finals of the PIC netfest.

In the men's 3.0 singles, the junior pair of Jake Lee and Daniel Park topped the team of Darnel Dela Cruz and a certain Noynoy in the finals in three sets, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2.

Three other teams joined the men's 3.0 singles with Dela Cruz and partner edging the father-and-son tandem of Tim and Steven Goodwin in the semis, 6-1, 6-0 and Park and Lee prevailing

See HEO on Page 26

Mobil, TBK keep winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil and TBK Auto Shop continued their uphill climb in the team standings in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, following another win on Monday at JP Center Basketball Court.

Mobil defeated Cellular Pro in the first game, 81-77, for the former's four game-winning run. Mobil now

See MOBIL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TBK Auto Shop's Orly Mallari pulls up for an uncontested shot during the closing seconds of their game against Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Sasamoto, two others top Micro Games qualifier

Felix Sasomoto Jr. topped the spearfishing qualifier for the 2010 Palau Micronesian Games held last Saturday behind the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

The Saipan Micronesia Games gold medalist secured the top spot with his total catch of 29.86 lbs. Derek San Nicolas came in second with his haul of 24.04 lbs., while rounding out the third and final slot was Morito Asai who harpooned 15.12 lbs. of fish.

Other spearfishermen who barely missed qualifying for the Micronesian Games were Greg Sasamoto and Abraham Quitugua.

The qualifier was organized by the Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club. MASC conducted the trial competition to select the Top 3 spearfishermen—two primary and one alternate—who will represent the CNMI in the 2010 Micronesian Games set in Palau from Aug. 1 to 10 this year.

A total of eight MASC members entered the competition which designated fishing zone was from the Agingan Point to the Garapan lighthouse. It started at 8am and finished at 3pm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palau Micronesian Games spearfishing top qualifier Felix Sasamoto Jr., center, shows off his catch while being flanked by runners-up Morito Asa, left, and Derek San Nicolas.

Felix Sasamoto won a gold medal for the individual category in the 2006 edition of the Micronesian Games. He also led Team CNMI to the gold medal in the team category.

See SASAMOTO on Page 26

Net 66 gives Fajardo SGA March Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariano Fajardo recorded the lone net score in the 60s to clinch the Saipan Golf Association March Ace.

The 24-handcapper Mariano carded a 43 and 47 on the front and back nine to tally a net 66 in the monthly tournament held on March 21 at the Coral Ocean Point. He bested 17 other SGA members, who all shot higher than net 70s.

Fajardo

Fajardo's closest pursuer was Pacific Islands Club Food & Beverage manager Steve Balakrishna, who was five strokes off the lead with his net 71. The 7-handicapper Balakrishna was consistent with his game at COP, logging a 39 on both nines for a gross 78, the lowest in the field.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Food & Beverage manager Das Krishnan rounded out the Top 3 after nailing a net 75, built on a 44 on the front and 47 on the back nines.

Completing the Top 10 were Frances Sablan (net 76), Larry Deleon Guerrero (76), Ray San Nicolas (78), Edward Manibusan (79), Nicholas Sablan (79), Edward Sablan (79), and Steve Jang (81).

Others who joined the monthly tournament were Jose I. Sablan (net 72), John L. Babauta (83), Jung Eun Teack (83), Joe Deleon Guerrero (86), Vicente Aldan (88), Bob Magofna (88), John Cruz (91), and Norbert Sablan (91).

In the longest drive contest, Krishnan won on the par-4 No. 6, while San Nicolas prevailed on the par-5 No. 18.

In the birdies race, Balakrishna led the way with his three, making birdies on the par-3 No. 3, par-5 No. 10, and par-3 No. 14. John L. Babauta, Fajardo, Manibusan, and San Nicolas had one birdie apiece.

The same names ruled the greenies category: Fajardo on hole No. 3; Krishnan on No. 7; Babauta on No. 12; and Balakrishna on No. 14.